



Infinite City: A San Francisco Atlas

By *Rebecca Solnit*

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What makes a place? *Infinite City*, *Rebecca Solnit*'s brilliant reinvention of the traditional atlas, searches out the answer by examining the many layers of meaning in one place, the San Francisco Bay Area. Aided by artists, writers, cartographers, and twenty-two gorgeous color maps, each of which illuminates the city and its surroundings as experienced by different inhabitants, *Solnit* takes us on a tour that will forever change the way we think about place. She explores the area thematically—connecting, for example, Eadweard Muybridge's foundation of motion-picture technology with Alfred Hitchcock's filming of *Vertigo*. Across an urban grid of just seven by seven miles, she finds seemingly unlimited landmarks and treasures—butterfly habitats, queer sites, murders, World War II shipyards, blues clubs, Zen Buddhist centers. She roams the political terrain, both progressive and conservative, and details the cultural geographies of the Mission District, the culture wars of the Fillmore, the South of Market world being devoured by redevelopment, and much, much more. Breathtakingly original, this atlas of the imagination invites us to search out the layers of San Francisco that carry meaning for us—or to discover our own infinite city, be it Cleveland, Toulouse, or Shanghai.

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Cartographers: Ben Pease and Shizue Seigel

Designer: Lia Tjandra

Artists: Sandow Birk, Mona Caron, Jaime Cortez, Hugh D'Andrade, Robert Dawson, Paz de la Calzada, Jim Herrington, Ira Nowinski, Alison Pebworth, Michael Rauner, Gent Sturgeon, Sunaura Taylor

Writers and researchers: Summer Brenner, Adriana Camarena, Chris Carlsson, Lisa Conrad, Guillermo Gómez-Peña, Joshua Jelly-Schapiro, Paul La Farge, Genine Lentine, Stella Lochman, Aaron Shurin, Heather Smith, Richard Walker

Additional cartography: Darin Jensen; Robin Grossinger and Ruth Askevold, San Francisco Estuary Institute

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Editorial Review

Review

“A joyous book.”

(*San Francisco Chronicle* 2010-11-03)

“Inventive and affectionate.”

(Lise Funderburg *New York Times Book Review* 2010-12-05)

“This nicely designed book offers a collection of essays and subject specific maps anyone who loves San Francisco will enjoy poring over.”

(Bob Walch *Bookloons.com* 2011-10-18)

“Brilliantly disorients our native sense of place.”

(Jonathon Keats *San Francisco Magazine* 2010-12-01)

“This is an amazing and thought-provoking book.”

(*Geist* 2012-11-05)

“A richly textured graphic book that no electronic format can master yet, *Infinite City* features Rebecca Solnit as cultural and historical tour guide through the city she calls home.”

(Bridget Kinsella *Shelf Awareness* 2010-10-18)

“A fresh and intriguing spin on mapmaking.”

(Elizabeth Ryan *Utne* 2010-11-01)

“A thrilling new book.”

(Nicole Gluckstern *San Francisco Bay Guardian* 2010-12-01)

“A gorgeously produced collection of maps and essays.”

(Nikil Saval *Los Angeles Review Of Books* 2011-07-28)

“Breathtakingly original.”

(*San Francisco Bay Guardian* 2010-11-23)

“A treasure of intricate, intimate maps.”

(Adam Hartzell *SF360* 2010-12-20)

From the Inside Flap

“At last a field book with the sense of San Francisco—the non sense, the real sense, the mysteries of the microclimates, gays and butterflies, gangs, boulevards and mysterious alleys. All here!”—Michael McClure

“Downright near infinite, at any rate, the good fortune of a city blessed with such antic chroniclers as Rebecca Solnit, First Citizen of the Imagination, and her entire splendid crew. There's one map missing, though, from this marvelous little volume: the MRI of any reader lucky enough to wander into its myriad

graven precincts—synapses firing, dendrites scintillating away, a whole mad happy carnival of fresh neuronal associations."—Lawrence Weschler, author of *Everything that Rises: A Book of Convergences*

"Solnit's writing is born of intense reverie and deep reading, passionate inquiry and political defiance; she is a lyric questor for the texture of everyday life, and she attends to places and to their variety and particularity with an exhilarating form of attention that illuminates and transforms her subjects. *Infinite City* is a marvellous atlas, a new approach to history-making and storytelling; it's also a highly original praise song to many San Franciscos, a multi-layered and polyphonic testament, alert to the play of detail and to the grand design, to the shadows of memory that fall, the restless shifts in the urban scene and the vital energy of overlooked subjectivities."—Marina Warner

About the Author

Rebecca Solnit is the best-selling author of many books, including *River of Shadows*, for which she won the National Book Critics Circle Award, *A Paradise Built in Hell*, *Savage Dreams* (UC Press), and *Storming the Gates of Paradise* (UC Press).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Connie Cornish:

This *Infinite City: A San Francisco Atlas* book is not really ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is definitely information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This kind of *Infinite City: A San Francisco Atlas* without we understand teach the one who looking at it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't become worry *Infinite City: A San Francisco Atlas* can bring whenever you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even cellphone. This *Infinite City: A San Francisco Atlas* having great arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

Patrick Cartwright:

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Leonard Vega:

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children, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their expertise in writing, they also doing some research before they write on their book. One of them is this Infinite City: A San Francisco Atlas.

Joe Williams:

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always try to and must have the extra time or they will get large amount of stress from both lifestyle and work. So , whenever we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not really a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative throughout spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is actually Infinite City: A San Francisco Atlas.

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