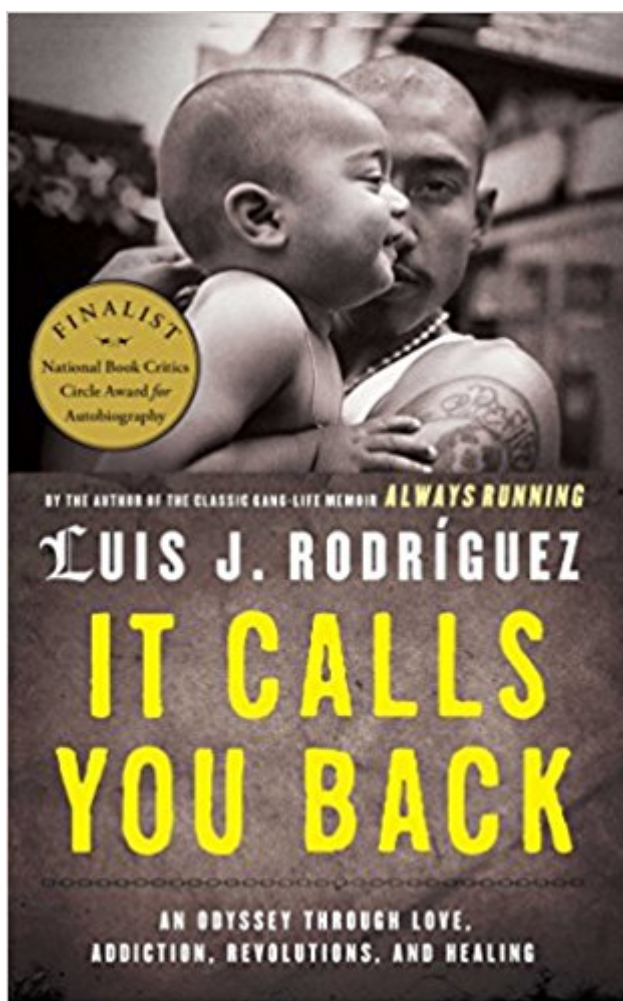


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# It Calls You Back: An Odyssey Through Love, Addiction, Revolutions, And Healing



## Synopsis

Luis Rodriguez, author of the award-winning and bestselling classic memoir *Hunger*, chronicles his harrowing journey from a drugged-out gang member to one of the most revered figures in Chicano literature. Hundreds of thousands of readers came to know Luis J. Rodriguez through his fearless classic, *Hunger*, which chronicled his early life as a young Chicano gang member surviving the dangerous streets of East Los Angeles. The long-awaited follow-up, *Hunger for Memory*, is the equally harrowing story of Rodriguez starting over, at age eighteen, after leaving gang life—the only life he really knew. The book opens with Rodriguez's final stint in jail as a teenager and follows his struggle to kick heroin, renounce his former life, and search for meaningful work. He describes with heartbreaking honesty his challenges as a father, and his difficulty leaving his rages and addictions completely behind. Even as he breaks with *a vida loca* and begins to discover success as a writer and an activist, Rodriguez finds that his past—the crimes, the drugs, the things he's seen and done—has a way of calling him back. When his oldest son is sent to prison for attempted murder, Rodriguez is forced to confront his shortcomings as a father, and to acknowledge how and why his own history is repeating itself, right before his eyes. Deeply insightful and beautifully written, *Hunger for Memory* is an odyssey through love, addiction, revolutions, and healing.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Beautifully written and politically astute." --Entertainment Weekly  
"Extraordinarily haunting and provocative." --The Washington Post Book World  
"Rodriguez's account of his coming of age is

vivid, raw....Here's truth no television set, burning night and day, could ever begin to offer." "--The New York Times Book Review""Rodriguez's life story is astonishing . . . It takes a heart broken open by a lifetime of sorrows to write with this wisdom and compassion. It takes a visionary to use this knowledge in service to those the world despises--troubled youth, the homeless, the incarcerated, the poor, the migrant--to be called back for those you love." --Sandra Cisneros, author of "Caramelo" and "The House on Mango Street""This is a man who understands that 'giving back' is a natural thing to do--and does it in spades. My respect for his metamorphosis can only be described as awe."--John Densmore, bestselling author of "Riders on the Storm: My Life with Jim Morrison and the Doors""Two decades ago Luis Rodriguez became a superhero in Chicano literature with his survivor's story of a gangbanger youth. Here, again, he beautifully details his not-so-ordinary life, its tragedies and graces, but now as a son, husband, father, a worker, journalist, and successful author. With "It Calls You Back", Rodriguez maps out his activist past and leads us into the future. Adelante!"--Dagoberto Gilb, author of "The Flowers" and "Before the End, After the Beginning"

The son of Mexican immigrants, Luis J. RodrÃ­guez began writing in his early teens and has won national recognition as a poet, journalist, fiction writer, children's book writer, and critic. RodrÃ­guez helped create Tia Chucha's CafÃ© & Centro Cultural. VisitÃ© LuisJRodriguez.com.

I remember first reading Rodriguez's 'Always Running' sometime during 2008 and feeling compelled to read it from cover to cover(I grew up in the same areas as the author and felt familiar with many of the scenes he described) . Make no mistake, the author isn't any type of saint. He was involved in plenty of destructive behavior. But at the same time there is a spirit about this man that makes him compelling and interesting. So recently when I discovered that he had released a follow-up book, I couldn't wait to get my hands on it. So basically 'It Calls You Back' picks up where 'Always Running' leaves off. Luis J. Rodriguez grew up in the San Gabriel Valley area and hung with the barrio click known as 'Los Lomas'. In his first book, Rodriguez talked about his childhood hanging around his barrio and his homies. For this second book, Rodriguez gets married, has a kid, and moves away from his childhood barrio. But different kinds of trouble rear their head. Rodriguez is a driven man who likes to learn and explore but at the same time is full of anger and complex emotions. There's a lot to be learned from this man and all the mistakes he has made; because he continually strives to move beyond his current troubles and further his knowledge of the world around him. A great book for those who grew up in similar circumstances and/or is open to its message (and if you haven't yet, I recommend reading 'Always Running' first).

This book has, unfortunately, not drawn me in like I had hoped it would. I'm a huge fan of Father Greg Boyle's and have read MY BLOODY LIFE and was hoping this would compare, but I can't seem to get into it so I doubt I'll find out. I skipped to the end to learn if there was at least something of a peaceful resolution, if not a happy ending. Wished I could type something more positive.

Upset because there were 3 tracks that were not listenable. I contacted them they sent me a second one and that too was mumbled. Other than that THE BOOK WAS AWESOME.

If you were touched by Always Running, and who wouldn't be after reading it, you may be interested in reading this book. Understand that it is not the rollercoaster of outlandish experiences with gangs, violence and drugs that we get in his memoir of his earlier life. However, if you are wondering what became of the man who went through all those trials and tribulations, you will find it here. Luis Rodriguez has been such an incredible force for positive change in the world, and in this book he recounts many of those efforts while revealing that he could never fully escape many of the challenges he was dealing with as a youth--hence the title. In case you feel like things are starting to slow down three-fourths of the way through the book, keep on reading, because some of the heaviest parts come at the very end.

Interesting read on the gang culture.

Great writer love all his books tells it like it is

I enjoyed it.

love his books

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Addiction: The Last ADDICTION RECOVERY Guide - The Infallible Method To Overcome Any Addiction:  
(addiction, addiction recovery, breaking addiction, overcoming ... addiction recovery, recovery, clean  
Book 4) Master Book On Addiction: How To Overcome Drug Addiction-Alcohol Addiction-Smoking  
Addiction-Gambling Addiction-Internet Addiction-Overeating Breaking Bad Habits: 11 Steps to  
Freedom (addiction, food addiction, sugar addiction, gambling addiction, addiction recovery, habits,

breaking bad habits) Back Stretching: Back Strengthening And Stretching Exercises For Everyone (lower back pain, healing back pain, stretching exercises, back pain treatment, ... pain relief, stretching, back pain Book 1) Addiction and Recovery: How to Overcome Alcohol, Gambling, Drug, Sex, Food, and Technology Addictions (Addiction, Substance Abuse, Addiction and Recovery, Alcohol Addiction) Gambling Addiction Cure: Gambling Addiction Cure and Recovery of Your Life (Addiction Recovery, Addiction Gambling, Quit Smoking, Addictions) The Nicotine Addiction Cure - How to Avoid Triggers, Manage Withdrawal Symptoms, and Quit Nicotine & Smoking for Life (tobacco addiction, nicotine addiction, ... recovery, smoking addiction, stop smoking,) Porn Addiction: How to Quit Porn, Porn Addiction, Step-by-Step Easy Guide to Control Your Porn Addiction, Stop Watching Porn in 7 Days! (Porn Addiction, Improve Your Relations, Live Happier Life) My Husband's a Porn Addict: A wife's tormenting journey through her husband's addiction ((Pornography addiction, porn addiction, spouse of porn addict)) Our Spiritual Wake Up Calls: When God Calls, Are You Listening? (Mahanta Transcripts Book 15) 222 Love Techniques to Make Any Man Fall in Love With You & Get Your Ex Back. Learn The Rules and Secret Laws of Enchantment: 222 Love Techniques to Get Your Ex Back and Make Him Miss You Healing: Reclaim Your Health: Self Healing Techniques: Fasting, Meditation, Prayer, Healing Medicine, and Energy Work (Channeling, Shamanism, Chakra Healing, ... Qigong Healing, Ayahuasca Book 1) Crystals and Gemstones: Healing The Body Naturally (Chakra Healing, Crystal Healing, Self Healing, Reiki Healing) Gambling Addiction: The Ultimate Guide To Gambling Addiction Recovery: How To Finally Overcome Gambling Addiction And Problem Gambling Forever (Overcome ... Sports Gambling, Fantasy Sports, Poker) Gambling:Overcoming Gambling Addiction- The Ultimate Blueprint To Escape Compulsive Gambling Addiction Forever! (Gambling Addiction,Gambling,Compulsive Gambling,Roulette,Gambling Systems) Opiate Addiction - How to detox from Opiates (How to Get Off Opiates): SHORT READS - Signs of opiate addiction, Symptoms of opiate use, Signs of opiate ... prescription drugs abuse, heroin addiction) Healing Through Christ Family Workbook: Help, Hope, and Healing for those who have a loved one in addiction The Sales Survival Handbook: Cold Calls, Commissions, and Caffeine Addiction--The Real Truth About Life in Sales Reiki: The Healing Energy of Reiki - Beginner's Guide for Reiki Energy and Spiritual Healing: Reiki: Easy and Simple Energy Healing Techniques Using the ... Energy Healing for Beginners Book 1)

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