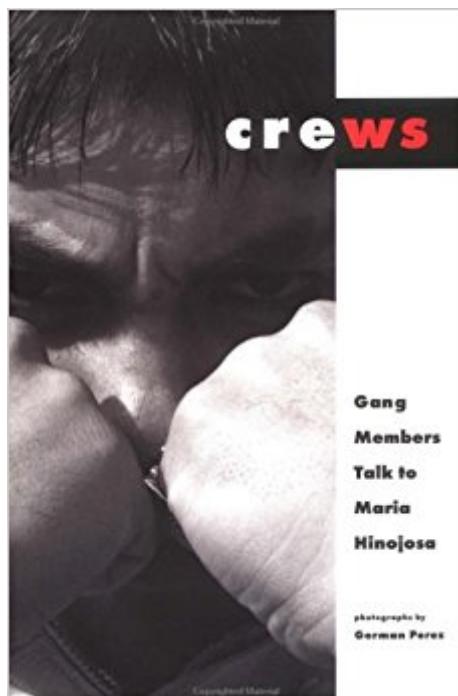


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# Crews: Gang Members Talk To Maria Hinojosa



## **Synopsis**

National Public Radio reporter Maria Hinojosa's work with a crew (gang) members of New York City inspired this in-depth collection of interviews. Her direct, nonjudgmental questions evoke poignant, surprising, and sometimes shocking responses from young people torn between violence and struggle for survival in America's cities. The contemporary topic, universal themes, accessible writing, and compelling language will fill a void on many libraries' shelves. These powerful statements may serve as a wake-up call to young adults and all who work with them today. --School Library Journal

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 690L (What's this?)

Paperback: 176 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

After the 1990 stabbing of a Utah tourist by a NYC gang member, NPR correspondent Hinojosa conducted an "All Things Considered" interview with members of a Queens, N.Y., "crew" (also called posses or gangs). Building on that report, she explores this world through seven interviews with young Queens gang members. They speak candidly, often with disturbing detachment, about a variety of issues: the sense of family offered by crews, how they view their futures, raising their own children, and misconceptions about posses. Members commit petty crimes, but the crews nonetheless seem like social groups compared to the "hard core" gangs of such cities as Los Angeles. Often, however, they come across as caricatures: all talk and no action. Though

Hinojosa's own naive views sometimes intrude, her book works best when she gets her subjects to drop their bravado and recount their individual experiences in an increasingly violent society. The resultant portraits powerfully demonstrate how loneliness, hopelessness and low self-esteem affect a growing number of young people. A compelling afterword brings the subjects' lives up to date. Ages 12-up. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 9 Up?A provocative and personal look at Latino gang members in New York City. Shank, Coki, Cindy, Tre, Smooth b, and their friends answer the interviewer's questions to reveal lives driven overwhelmingly by some common threads: the need for acceptance, suppressed anger, dysfunctional families, poverty, violence, and drugs. For these teens their "crews" or "posses," the street term for gangs, serve as a safe haven, an anchor to reality, and a place in which to feel in control. Hinojosa's open-ended questioning style encourages young men and women to tell their own stories. Their reflections on childhood, family, school, loneliness, friendships, the street, drugs, sex, death, fights, and the future are moving testaments to the resiliency of the human spirit. The contemporary topic, universal themes, accessible writing, and compelling language will fill a void on many library's shelves. These powerful statements may serve as a wake-up call to young adults and all who work with them today.?Gail Richmond, San Diego Unified Schools, CACopyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Well, I was the editor of that book so it is no surprise that I think it is an unusually fine look at people of another class. These boys are boys, just like one's own boys but they are looking for trouble--and getting it--a lot of their time. I went to meet Maria one afternoon when I was in New York. She told me how to get to this particular cafe in a lowdown part of town and I got there, but when I was a few blocks away, Maria ran to meet me/"Diane! Diane!" she called. "You a vic! You stay in your own part of town after this okay ?" I was a vic--a victim--because I was looking at the street signs, looking like a didn't know where I was going. My part of town was the hotel part of town. I didn't like being a vic so I took her advice.The book is sweetly written and easy to read and should be illuminating to all who read it.

Everything that I expected Good deal! Recommend! it's really bad Amazing product and fast service. Received product in timely fashion. Product is just as described in details. Works great, showed up on time. All around good experience with product and seller. just order early Just work gently and have fun!

I thought this book was very good at showing how it actually is to live on the streets, because they talked to real people. I also like the way that they described the conditions that they had to live in so good. Maria was very good at talking to the people like they were having a regular conversation so it felt like you were there with them. It was also helpful that they had a glossary in the back of the book so if you didn't know what a street term meant, you could look it up and you would know what the gang members were talking about and/or describing. Overall I think this book is worth while and I would suggest it to everyone interested.

This book really made me think a lot about what a "loose cannon" really goes through to get how they are. Usually, the media exploits these types of people and they don't talk about how they got this way... But in this book, they tell you about their lives and how they get to the point where they are at and what they want in the future. Maria really did a good job and let the boys and girls speak their mind. Once you read this book, you will start to understand the Crew members and the atmosphere that they live in. So check it out because it's something that will elevate your thinking about other human beings.

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