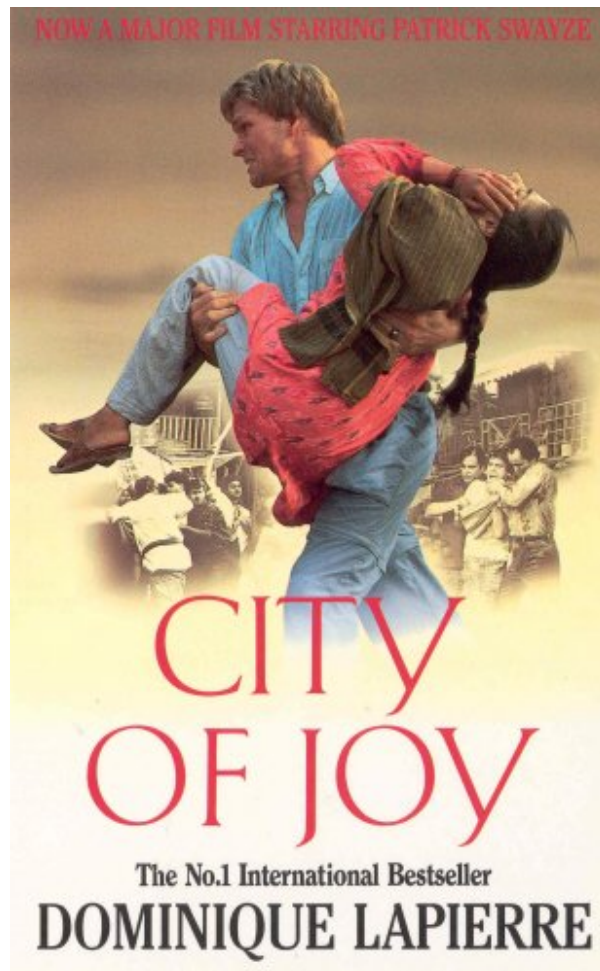


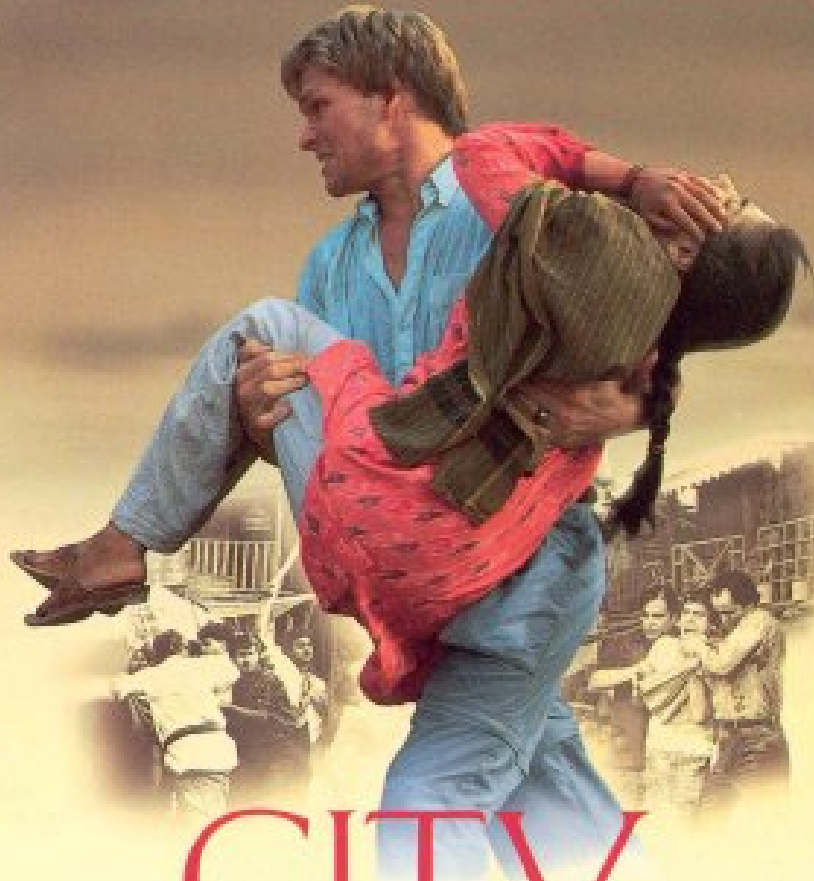
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What irony that one of Calcutta's most devastating slums should be known as Anand Nagar, ``the City of Joy." By interweaving impressionistic glimpses from the lives of a French priest, a rickshaw driver, and an American doctor, Lapierre creates a searing vision of the struggle for survival, the flashing violence, and the social and cultural practices of the slum. His theme that from human misery can emerge joy might seem to some readers as a bogus acceptance of a terrible evil. Yet Lapierre's narrative slides skillfully in and out of both history and fiction to create an effective but horrible montage of disease, death, and destruction amid elements of charity, hope, and love. The City of Joy should elicit strong reactions from readers. BOMC and Quality Paperback Book Club alternates. John F. Riddick, Central Michigan Univ. Lib., Mt. Pleasant  
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Review

"This book is a masterpiece" \* Le Monde \* "Its heroes show us... how majestic the human spirit can be. City of Joy redefines all our perspectives" \* Sunday Telegraph \*

Language Notes

Text: English, French (translation)

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Living in the seeming hell of one of the poorest and most crowded quarters of Calcutta are the saints of today: saints such as Mother Teresa, saints such as Stephen Kovalski, an unknown Polish Catholic priest who made his home there to care for the poorest of the poor. And Max Loeb, an American physician dedicated to fighting disease in this dirty hellhole. City of Joy, the story of these saints, is a testament to the human spirit unbowed by the most wretched of circumstances.

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Features

- ARROW

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LaPierre documents every word with real facts

By Nancy Fabbri

LaPierre helped to write O Jerusalem and Is Paris Burning--both great books that are documented by facts. In

the City of Joy, LaPierre tells the stories of families and priests and others (haven't finished it yet) and gives a truthful feel for Calcutta with its sadness, its greatness, its smells and feels. Our church has a mission there in the city. I am enjoying "seeing and feeling" the city even though I cannot physically go there. I will share it with my pastor, on the board of the mission and his daughter who is there as a missionary.

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Strange name for such a desolate place, but, then again, maybe not

By Mdarcy

This book told the story of a city, its inhabitants and their coping strategy. The "city of joy" is at the bottom of the list of wealthy places to live. A priest goes to live among the poorest of the poor and this is the tale of how he adapted and what he learned. The book was totally mesmerizing. You really become involved in the lives of everyone. It was an emotionally exhausting journey but well worth it.

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