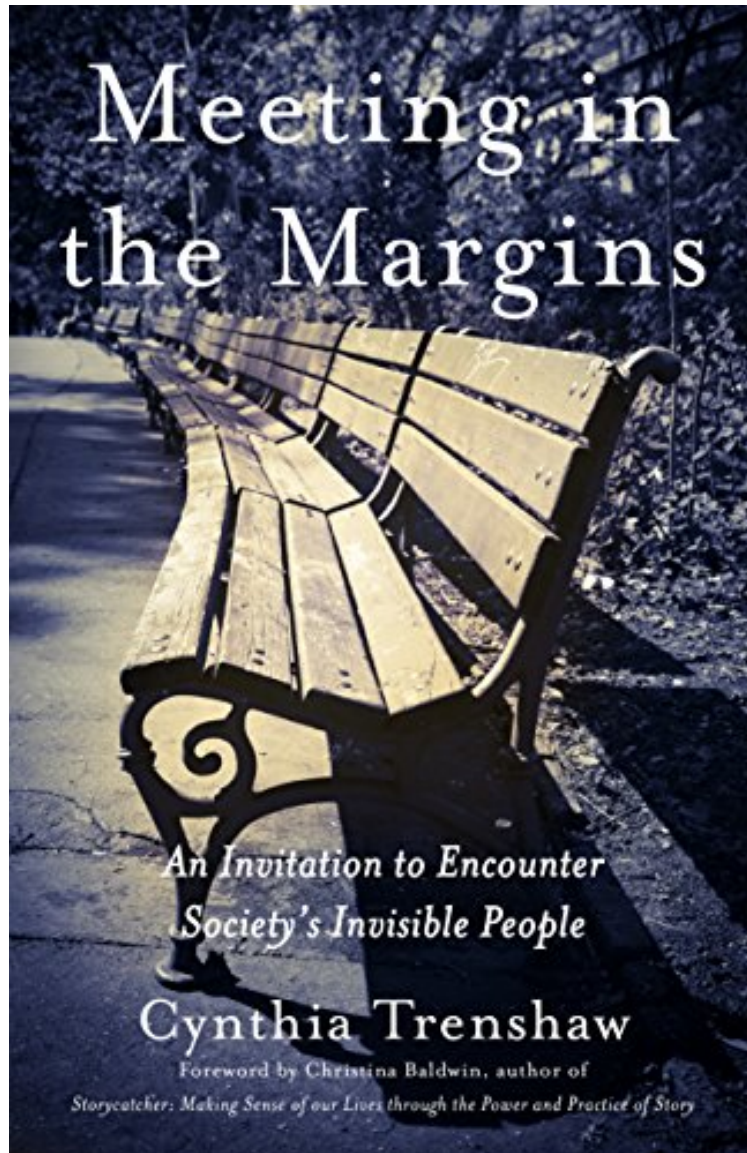


(Mobile book) Meeting in the Margins: An Invitation to Encounter Society's Invisible People

## Meeting in the Margins: An Invitation to Encounter Society's Invisible People

*Cynthia Trenshaw*

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**Cynthia Trenshaw : Meeting in the Margins: An Invitation to Encounter Society's Invisible People** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Meeting in the Margins: An Invitation to Encounter Society's Invisible People:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I was converted. By Eloise When you taste anything thinking it is something else, the taste is unwelcome. I anticipated a novel about the lives of the homeless. I am someone who stuffs

my pocket with dollar bills when I walk the streets of San Francisco so that I don't have to root through my bottomless purse for my billfold when I encounter someone asking for help. I'm usually walking with someone else and don't want to make them wait too long. Thus, I looked forward to reading the stories of those folks who break your heart. The young defeated faces bother me most. Then there are the mothers with children. I feel the need to comment that it is difficult to separate the writing of the author from the life the author describes. The writing was excellent. The book reads much like a diary and one doesn't meet a homeless person until well into the novel. The author describes her initiation and spending three years in order to become a massage therapist for the homeless. She speaks of her spiritual need and I think she has assigned herself this task as a means of being able to see herself eligible for sainthood. Less than enchanted, I read on. When I begin to read about the author's forays into the margins and her interactions with the marginalized, my interest is peaked. I begin to understand her need and where she is coming from. She proceeds despite the natural ick factor in touching people who haven't bathed or washed their clothes for a long time. She learns how to approach someone who may or may not be interested in being touched. She learns not to ask questions. She learns how to be safe even if traveling in pairs. The description of coming home to clean walls, toilet, toilet paper, shower, laundry facilities, clean sheets, a thermostat is one of the most telling in the book. The author is more offended by city services which offer sugary donuts than by the drugs which brought some of her clients to her current position. I understand. I receive my share of what I bought the book for, to hear the stories of a variety of there-but-for-whatever-go-I people. Who she is and her experience engenders a discussion of what is enough to live a good life. This is among a number of her philosophical forays. I realize she is genuine. I admire her. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. For those who like and do "feel good" charitable events By spaddriverdavis I sent this to my sister in law as a gift as she is involved in various help other organizations. Here is her response to my asking her how the book was going. "1/2 way through, yes I am totally enjoying and bless those massage therapists. Interesting perspective on homeless. It's a me book. Definitely have folks to share it with. Will send back when done" Im not sure four stars is fair because if she was writing it, the rating might be a three or a five. For those who like and do "feel good" charitable events, Im sure this book will be a winner. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Such a great book! I picked it up in my local ... By lifeisgreatinthe808 Such a great book! I picked it up in my local library, read it in a couple sittings, then promptly ordered one for my daughter to read. Touched me in a number of ways. Highly recommended read to understand homelessness on a deeper and more compassionate level.

When Cynthia Trenshaw, recently widowed, moves to Berkeley, she thinks the reason she has transplanted herself is to earn her master's degree in theology. But when, step by unexpected step, she is drawn into the cultural borderlands where society's "invisible people" reside, she encounters dispossessed and demanding teachers not listed on any academic roster—and becomes immersed in a heady curriculum of helplessness and joy, wisdom and pain. A book that encourages readers to receive the generosity and reciprocity of the margins, *Meeting in the Margins* offers guidance for how we can all, as individuals, begin to repair the rift between the margins and the mainstream of society—simply by being profoundly present.

*Meeting in the Margins* is a dangerous book. It will move you, shake you, change you, and leave you with a profound sense that you have been in the presence of the holy. Cynthia Trenshaw's intention is to do just that. She is a brilliant writer. Simply by telling the truth in stories that she herself has lived, she takes us into touching distance of those whom Rabindranath Tagore called "the poorest, the lowliest, and lost." —Pat Schneider, author of *Writing Alone and With Others*, and *How the Light Gets In: Writing as a Spiritual Practice*, both from Oxford University Press  
A beautifully written, challenging, and thought-provoking book, one that truly leads us to insights and recognitions that make it possible to contemplate a world that works for all. I haven't seen anything like it. Trenshaw's book contributes to helping us see the world at the margins with clarity. —Margaret J. Wheatley, author of *So Far From Home*, *Perseverance*, *Turning to One Another*, and *Leadership and the New Science*  
Cynthia Trenshaw is a gifted writer, massage therapist and pilgrim who has chosen to journey with those who are the most vulnerable in our society. As a writer she conveys in vivid and powerful prose the heart-wrenching details of life on the street. As a massage therapist she feels into the stories of those who live in the margins, and anoints their soul-wounds with compassion and courage. As a pilgrim she searches for meaning, her own and ours, with every encounter. This is a prayer-book as well as a text-book for those who choose to journey to the margins of society and be transformed. —Mary Ann Finch, founder/director of Care Through Touch Institute, and author of *Care Through Touch: Massage, the Art of Anointing*  
Cynthia Trenshaw gifts us with an extraordinary window into the soul of the marginalized among us. In exquisite detail of both inner and outer moments of meeting on the streets, the reality of presence she evokes communicates through her stories; it sparks our own celebration of that precious sense of presence. Prepare to be deeply touched. Prepare to remember what is truly important in our lives. This book is itself a gift from soul to soul. Through her open-hearted memories, Trenshaw offers us all a most generous and luxurious soul massage! —Rabbi Ted Falcon, PhD,

author of *A Journey of Awakening*, co-author of *Religion Gone Astray*, *Getting to the Heart of Interfaith*, and *Judaism For Dummies*—This well-written, often moving account of Trenshaw's experiences among the homeless and other forgotten individuals at society's margins evokes a range of responses: apprehension, admiration, revulsion, recognition, and perhaps shame in anyone who's ever avoided the sight of a street person. Trenshaw, a chaplain and massage practitioner with a degree in theology, shares her experiences seeking out these invisible men and women and offering them not only massage (relaxing for both body and mind) but the greater gift of affirming their 'realness' and 'worth.' —Publishers Weekly

About the Author  
Cynthia Trenshaw earned national certification as hospital chaplain and as massage therapist. She holds WA state certifications as professional guardian, guardian ad litem, and nursing assistant-registered. She holds a master's degree in theology (MTh) from Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley. Three of the chapters from *Meeting in the Margins* have been published in an anthology and a literary journal, and her essays and poetry have been published in a variety of magazines and journals over the past ten years. She blogs regularly at [www.cynthiatrenshaw.com](http://www.cynthiatrenshaw.com).