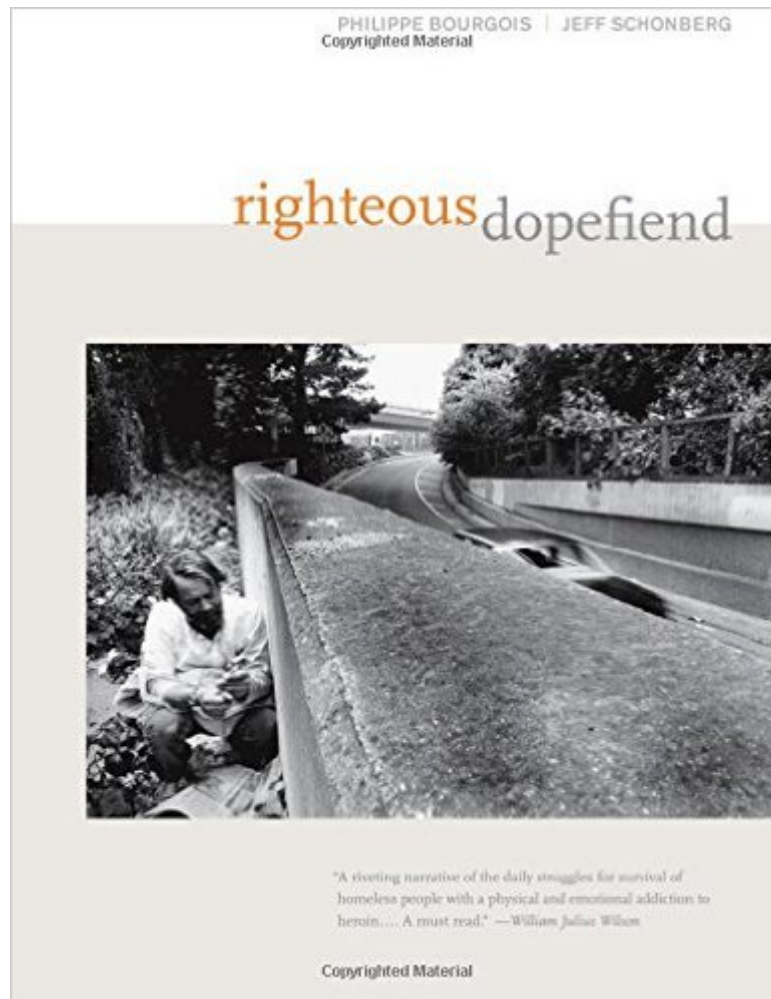


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# Righteous Dopefiend (California Series In Public Anthropology)



## Synopsis

This powerful study immerses the reader in the world of homelessness and drug addiction in the contemporary United States. For over a decade Philippe Bourgois and Jeff Schonberg followed a social network of two dozen heroin injectors and crack smokers on the streets of San Francisco, accompanying them as they scrambled to generate income through burglary, panhandling, recycling, and day labor. *Righteous Dopefiend* interweaves stunning black-and-white photographs with vivid dialogue, detailed field notes, and critical theoretical analysis. Its gripping narrative develops a cast of characters around the themes of violence, race relations, sexuality, family trauma, embodied suffering, social inequality, and power relations. The result is a dispassionate chronicle of survival, loss, caring, and hope rooted in the addicts' determination to hang on for one more day and one more "fix" through a "moral economy of sharing" that precariously balances mutual solidarity and interpersonal betrayal.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (34 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #21,318 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Geography > Regional](#) #22 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional U.S. > West](#) #23 in [Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Criminology](#)

## Customer Reviews

I was assigned this book for my Sociology 104 class at KU. Out of the five books we were expected to read, this book was definitely top 3 (with *Connected* and *Sidewalk*, thought the other two - *The Tender Cut* & *The Second Shift* - were also eye-opening as well). Though I still have trouble with remembering what terms belong to what principles, like hegemony, my understanding of what was taught in the class was paralleled. This book is an eye opener and you don't need to understand what all of the terms mean to get a feel for the point being made here. Yes, there are a couple of

chapters that express the meaning of this study in terms that are difficult to take on, especially if you are not expecting to or interested in studying sociology beyond the basics or have studied, but don't let that affect your decision when ascertaining the truth. This book is amazing and nearly riveting. I did understand the professional terms, for the most part, while I read this book (since I was knee deep in the class at the time and soaking up as much 'goody' as possible) and I would just like to say that it is worth your time. This book focuses on a group of homeless heroine addicts (though many smoke crack and drink as well). This study/story shows a parallel of survival and social structure similar to that of 'normal' life, but, of course, with a bias of illegal dependency and the carelessness for others; the root of the human soul in some (maybe many) cases.

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