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life as a teenager
growing up in El
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Published. 1967. Down These Mean Streets is a memoir by Piri Thomas,

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a Latino Puerto Rican and Cuban descent who grew up in El Barrio (aka Spanish Harlem), a section of Harlem that has a large Puerto Rican population.

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"A linguistic event.
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mingle into a kind of
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has very much its own
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Thomas writes of his
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Streets: Thomas, Piri:

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Down These Mean

Streets By: Piri Thomas

ISBN: 0-679-78142-0

331 pages Publisher:

Vintage Books 1967

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mean streets by Piri

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Thomas is a very interesting book. It has a lot of details that would put you into the characters foot. Piri Thomas was a 12 years old kid who lived in the Spanish Harlem of New York.

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Streets explores how race and gender intersect and influence on the life of Piri Thomas. One indication of how this intersection is at play is where Piri embraces the “black macho” persona in an intent to adapt himself to the urban American landscape of New York. [15]

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1950s, Down These
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memoir that follows the
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the book opens, Piri is
twelve years old,

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The author recalls his early experiences with poverty and discrimination, his

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involvement with drugs
and gangs, and his
prison sentence for
armed robbery which
led to his rehabilitation
and work with street
gangs and drug addicts

Many people write
about the ghetto. Piri
Thomas lived there. In
this book, the author of
Down These Mean
Streets tells what he

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found when he returned from a seven year prison term. Friends dying on heroin, or getting rich selling it. Jobs he couldn't get, not because he lacked training or ability, but because the union was open only to whites. And an indomitable aunt who brought him into her church, where he met the woman who

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became his wife, and where he began to take an interest in helping others. Eventually he got a job working with street children—helping them find highs other than drugs, trying to cool rivalries fueled by frustration, persuading gang leaders to surrender weapons originally intended for bloody street battles.

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But even with success
came bitter
disappointments.

Pervasive discrimination
forced Thomas and his
family to give up a
suburban home. And an
appalling hypocritical
and selfish boss forced
him out of his job—and
almost back into prison.
Piri Thomas writes of
these experiences with
unselfish candor and

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compassion. He pictures the poverty and squalor as well as the spirit and vitality of the ghetto in a dramatic story that is blunt, painful, absorbing and profoundly moving.

Wounded and arrested while committing an armed robbery, Thomas begins his long seven years of incarceration first in the prison ward

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at Bellevue and then in
Sing Sing and Great
Meadows (Comstock).

Thomas' great heart and
tough street philosophy
face off lyrically with
the brutality of guards,
the sterility of steel and
cement, the perversity
fostered on both sides of
the bars by
incarceration. Seven
Long Times is the
critically-acclaimed

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These Mean
Streets to Thomas'
sequel to Thomas'
classic of urban and
prison literature, Down
These Mean Streets.

MANY CULTURES *
ONE WORLD "Boricua
is what Puerto Ricans
call one another as a
term of endearment,
respect, and cultural
affirmation; it is a
timeless declaration that
transcends gender and

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color. Boricua is a powerful word that tells the origin and history of the Puerto Rican people." --From the Introduction From the sun-drenched beaches of a beautiful, flamboyan-covered island to the cool, hard pavement of the fierce South Bronx, the remarkable journey of the Puerto Rican people is a rich story

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full of daring defiance,
courageous strength,
fierce passions, and
dangerous politics--and
it is a story that
continues to be told
today. Long ignored by
Anglo literature studies,
here are more than fifty
selections of poetry,
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the most vibrant and original voices in Puerto Rican literature. * Jack Agüeros * Miguel Algarín * Julia de Burgos * Pedro Albizu Campos * Lucky CienFuegos * Judith Ortiz Cofer * Jesus Colon * Victor Hernandez Cruz * José de Diego * Martin Espada * Sandra Maria Esteves * Ronald Fernandez *

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Thematically,
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Chandler's work is in the mainstream of American literature that moved westward, carrying the simple problems of the extrovert who, knowing right from wrong, had only to exert a courageous individualism in order to end up a hardened but virtuous hero. Originally published in 1963. A

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into the chaotic heart of one family, the intense bonds of three brothers, and the mythic effects of this fierce love on the people we must become.

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Allison “Rumbles with lyric dynamite...Torres is a savage new talent.”—Benjamin Percy, Esquire “A fiery ode to boyhood...A welterweight champ of a book.”—NPR, Weekend Edition “A novel so honest, poetic, and tough that it makes you reexamine what it means to love and to hurt.”—O, The Oprah

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Magazine “The communal howl of three young brothers sustains this sprint of a novel...A kind of incantation.”—The New Yorker

After leaving the college she'd attended to escape her religiously conservative parents, Iliana, a first-generation Dominican-American

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woman, returns home to Brooklyn to find that her family is falling apart: one sister is careening toward mental collapse, another sister is living in a decrepit building with her abusive husband and three children, and a third sister has simply disappeared. In this dislocating urban environment Iliana

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reluctantly confronts the anger and desperation that seem to seep through every crack of her family's small house, and experiences all the contradictions, superstitions, joys, and pains that come from a life caught between two cultures. In this magnificent debut novel, filled with graceful prose and

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searing detail, Loida Maritza Pérez offers a penetrating portrait of the American immigrant experience as she explores the true meanings of identity, family--and home.

A new edition of the acclaimed novel about a Puerto Rican girl coming of age in New York City during

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On an August evening in 1933, in a quiet, working-class neighborhood in Paris, eighteen-year-old Violette Nozière gave her mother and father glasses of barbiturate-laced "medication," which she told them had been prescribed by the family doctor; one of

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her parents died, the other barely survived. Almost immediately Violette's act of "double parricide" became the most sensational private crime of the French interwar era—discussed and debated so passionately that it was compared to the Dreyfus Affair. Why would the beloved only child of

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respectable parents do such a thing? To understand the motives behind this crime and the reasons for its extraordinary impact, Sarah Maza delves into the abundant case records, re-creating the daily existence of Parisians whose lives were touched by the affair. This compulsively readable

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book brilliantly evokes the texture of life in 1930s Paris. It also makes an important argument about French society and culture while proposing new understandings of crime and social class in the years before World War II.

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now the largest minority
group in the United

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States, and their impact on American popular culture-from food to entertainment to literature-is greater than ever. Featuring family portraits of real- life immigrant Latino pioneers, as well as accounts of the events and conditions that compelled them to leave their homelands, Harvest of Empire is

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required reading for
anyone wishing to
understand the history
and legacy of this
increasingly influential
group.

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