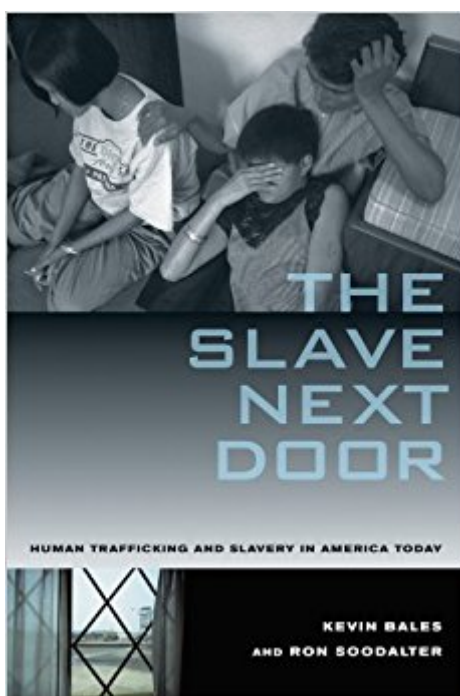


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# The Slave Next Door: Human Trafficking And Slavery In America Today



## Synopsis

In this riveting book, authors and authorities on modern day slavery Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter expose the disturbing phenomenon of human trafficking and slavery that exists now in the United States. In *The Slave Next Door* we find that slaves are all around us, hidden in plain sight: the dishwasher in the kitchen of the neighborhood restaurant, the kids on the corner selling cheap trinkets, the man sweeping the floor of the local department store. In these pages we also meet some unexpected slaveholders, such as a 27-year old middle-class Texas housewife who is currently serving a life sentence for offences including slavery. Weaving together a wealth of voices—from slaves, slaveholders, and traffickers as well as from experts, counselors, law enforcement officers, rescue and support groups, and others—this book is also a call to action, telling what we, as private citizens, can do to finally bring an end to this horrific crime.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Although most people imagine widespread enslavement only in the historical past, human trafficking continues to exist today in myriad forms around the world. In this informative call to action, Bales (*Disposable People*), sociologist and president of Free the Slaves, and Soodalter (*Hanging Captain Gordon*), a historian, document routine coercive slave labor in domestic service, prostitution, farm labor, factories, light industry, prisons and mining operations. While many sensational cases have been well publicized, the authors demonstrate that slavery exists in mundane and unexpected forms. Their case studies begin in an American suburb and traverse the globe to urban China and

rural Ghana, returning to Los Angeles, Calif., and East Orange, N.J., just a few of 100-plus documented cases in the U.S. The second half of the book focuses on causes and solutions, with a helpful emphasis on how ordinary individuals can recognize and report coercive situations, creating a humane and helpful primer on how to sever the links that create and hide human bondage. (July) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

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“An informative call to action . . . a humane and helpful primer on how to sever the links that create and hide human bondage.” (Publishers Weekly 2009-05-04) “Will likely change the way you understand your community.” (Deborah Fink Friends Journal 2010-05-07) “Anyone wanting a better understanding of the ongoing problem of slavery in the United States and their own role in perpetuating or eradicating it should read this book.” (Charles Song California Lawyer 2010-01-01) “Essential reading for anyone interested in human rights. . . . [The authors] appeal to the reader’s sense of justice and compassion.” (Tiffany Williams Foreign Policy In Focus 2009-05-18) “If you read one book on human trafficking this year, make it *The Slave Next Door*. . . . Digestible, enjoyable, and ultimately uplifting.” (Change.org 2009-05-14) “With the help of this great book . . . we can shift from ignoring this crude reality to [eradicating] this abominable practice.” (African Politics Portal 2009-05-13) “An arresting volume.” (History Wire 2009-07-14)

This book is rich with facts concerning human trafficking and sex trafficking in the U.S. I gained a great deal of information from it. On the downside, it is a little too anecdotal in some places and too preachy in others. (I prefer to draw my own conclusions from documented facts.)

Most Americans believe that slavery is either dead or something that occurs in far off places to foreign people and thusly does not exist or concern us. Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalter dispels these myths in *The Slave Next Door*. Through a combination of cold hard facts and personal stories of exploitation, cohesion, and enslavement. Unlike other books that only focus on one aspect of slavery ( like the sex trade), Bales and Soodalter premise is that no form of slavery is justified and talks deeply about systems of agricultural labor, domestics, and sex slavery and argue that the traffickers will continue to find inventive ways to enslave and exploit others. We have a role in the slave system because we get items like hand-woven rugs from India, Pakistan, and Nepal , steel and metals used in cars is obtained from Brazil after the charcoal has been collected by slaves in

Brazil and most distressingly we may be eating products produced from slave labor brought to us by America's largest corporations. Bales and Soodalter further attack the notion that sex trafficking is only a problem for foreign born women in this country by illustrative cases like that of Dennis Paris who used heroin addiction to control several American born, naturalized citizens into a web of prostitution. The last portion of the book is dedicated to an assessment of United States policy towards victims of Modern Day Slavery by going through agency by agency in the federal government and discussing the steps they are taking to combat the problem. One thing that comes out of here is that NGO's that deal with human slavery are hideously under funded and are in desperate need of skilled labor and this is key when he discusses at the end, what we as Americans can do about modern slavery.

Very detailed information about the multiple forms of slavery that is all around us.

Four stars say I like this book. The terminology is not appropriate. How can you "like" reading about slavery in America. I really hadn't thought about it before, but this opened my eyes, maybe a little too wide. This is very completely researched and analyzed, and full of specific stories and situations throughout the country. From farm labor slavery in Florida to sex slavery in New York, to house slaves in Seattle. We see these people more than we know, but I had no idea about the reality of their bondage. They are held in place by physical and mental abuse, fear, and in some cases physical restraint. Read their stories and open your eyes. It is not a happy picture, but the lesson is we can all do something about it. Find out what. Read the book.

Whether you a police officer, victim service provider, a student, a community member, an academic or anyone wanting to really identify issues and factual information about human trafficking, this is the source above all others. One can pick up the book and go to any section to find out "how" better to become effectively involved in prevention, prosecution, or understanding victims and their long road back to a sense of self-worth. This is a book that should be mandatory reading as a source book and yet a book that gives common sense advice in order to stop modern day slavery.

needs updated

This book is on the subject of human trafficking which is just beginning to receive the attention it needs. At times, the book became so intense, I had to put it down and read something different

before going back to it. I read it in preparation for a group discussion my church was having on the subject. The author writes well and incorporates actual stories with legal difficulties and public attitudes. Recommended for any group interested in being pro-active in bringing social justice to the community.

A must have for anyone wanting to understand the wide scope of human exploration and trafficking. Starts with a history and background. Shows the laws enacted to protect those exploited or trafficked. Has examples of true stories of survivors, exploiters and redemption. I would highly recommend this amazing book, but be prepared to experience several emotions: disbelief, anger, fear, helplessness, frustration, etc. You will not regret purchasing this book.

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