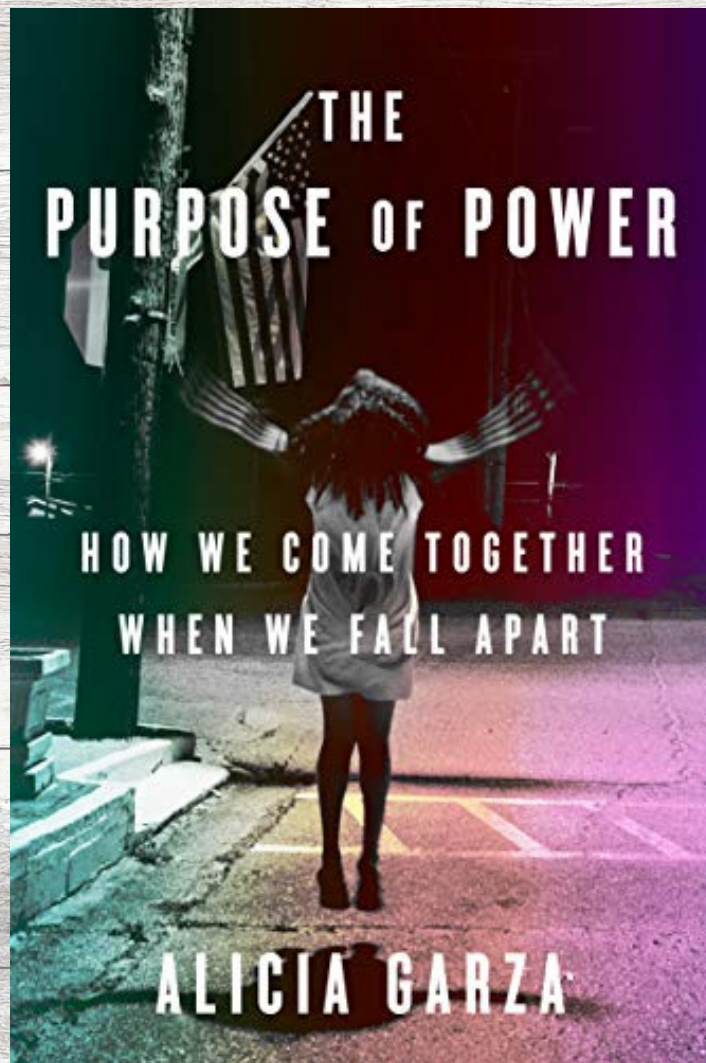


THE PURPOSE OF POWER: HOW WE COME TOGETHER
WHEN WE FALL APART BY: ALICIA GARZA

BOOK GUIDE



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A MESSAGE FROM VICTORIA:

I had many takeaways from this book! I loved how the author invited me to reimagine how I think about power and why it's important. Because power is so tightly connected to racism and other systems of violence and oppression, I tend to move away from thinking about power as being beneficial, but this book reshaped how I think about the importance of power and the essential distinction between power over others and collective power. I also really appreciated her examples of disrupting stereotypes on page. 91.

Finally, I appreciated the important context and history that the book provided. I think it's essential to put things into context and we can't do that without a meaningful appreciation for history and nuanced context.

WHAT WERE YOUR KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE BOOK?

WHAT CONCEPTS DID THE BOOK INVITE YOU TO THINK ABOUT DIFFERENTLY?

HOW DID THE BOOK IMPACT HOW YOU THINK ABOUT POWER, WHAT IT IS,
AND WHY IT MATTERS?

WHAT REFLECTIONS DO YOU HAVE ABOUT SOLIDARITY AFTER READING THE
BOOK? AND HOW CAN YOU APPLY THESE REFLECTIONS INTO YOUR OWN
LIFE AND PRACTICE?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN ANTIRACIST WORK MOVING FORWARD?



DID YOU HAVE ANY FAVORITE PASSAGES OR CONCEPTS FROM THE BOOK?

VICTORIA'S FAVORITE KEY PASSAGE

I had many key takeaways from the book, but here are two that particularly stuck with me. On page 148 at the end of the last paragraph on Intersectionality, "Intersectionality asks us to examine the places where we are marginalized, but it also demands that we examine how and why those of us who are marginalized can in turn exercise marginalization over others. It demands that we do better by one another so that we can be more powerful together" (Garza, pg. 148) and the note that I made in the margin was: imagine if white women and white LGBTQIA+ people did this? Another, that also had me thinking about white women and queer folks, was about solidarity on page 157. Garza writes: "solidarity can never be expressed by hearing someone's pain and then turning the conversation back to yourself."

Solidarity means trying to understand the ways our communities experience unique forms of oppression and marginalization. It means showing up for one another to bear witness and then expanding our fight to include the challenges faced by other communities besides our own" (pg. 157) reading this section gives me goosebumps every time. Again, imagine if more white folks did this? How broad would our empathy, compassion, and solidarity become?

ANY FINAL THOUGHTS YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE ABOUT THE BOOK?