Revolution Detroit: Strategies For Urban Reinvention (Painted Turtle)
Synopsis
After decades of suburban sprawl, job loss, and lack of regional government, Detroit has become a symbol of post-industrial distress and also one of the most complex urban environments in the world. In Revolution Detroit: Strategies for Urban Reinvention, John Gallagher argues that Detroit’s experience can offer valuable lessons to other cities that are, or will soon be, dealing with the same broken municipal model. A follow-up to his award-winning 2010 work, Reimagining Detroit, this volume looks at Detroit’s successes and failures in confronting its considerable challenges. It also looks at other ideas for reinvention drawn from the recent history of other cities, including Cleveland, Flint, Richmond, Philadelphia, and Youngstown, as well as overseas cities, including Manchester and Leipzig. Revolution Detroit surveys four key areas: governance, education and crime, economic models, and the repurposing of vacant urban land. Among the topics Gallagher covers are effective new urban governance models developed in Cleveland and Detroit; new education models highlighting low-income-but-high-achievement schools and districts; creative new entrepreneurial business models emerging in Detroit and other post-industrial cities; and examples of successful repurposing of vacant urban land through urban agriculture, restoration of natural landscapes, and the use of art in public places. He concludes with a cautious yet hopeful message that Detroit may prove to be the world’s most important venue for successful urban experimentation and that the reinvention portrayed in the book can be repeated in many cities. Gallagher’s extensive traveling and research, along with his long career covering urban redevelopment for the Detroit Free Press, has given him an unmatched perspective on Detroit’s story. Readers interested in urban studies and recent Detroit history will appreciate this thoughtful assessment of the best practices and obvious errors when it comes to reinventing our cities.

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I thoroughly enjoyed this detailed and very readable book. The author takes a topic which could be difficult to comprehend and makes it fascinating on various levels, even for somebody like me who is in no way an expert on urban renewal. Dwellers of big and small cities all over ought to take a look at Revolution Detroit for ideas about what we can do to create a better life where we live.

Highly recommend Revolution Detroit to all persons who have an interest in urban planning and urban environments. The author has included a great amount of research from other cities who have or are undergoing a transformation from a manufacturing economy and have a decreasing population. The author Mr Gallagher maintains a sense of optimism throughout this book, and discusses many ideas that could help to the revitalisation of a metropolitan area.

While Detroit is facing perhaps the most challenging major city, other cities in the northeast and midwest are struggling with similar problems. Gallagher shares issues and possible responses to these challenges. Worthwhile book.

Good book. Very interesting to read the passion people have about their city. Detroit is a treasure that should not be lost.

A very good read; thought it gave good insight as to how real options to stave on bankruptcy could have been explored by Detroit but were not.