



## It Calls You Back: An Odyssey through Love, Addiction, Revolutions, and Healing

By Luis J. Rodriguez



### It Calls You Back: An Odyssey through Love, Addiction, Revolutions, and Healing By Luis J. Rodriguez

Luis Rodriguez, author of the award-winning and bestselling classic memoir *Always Running*, chronicles his harrowing journey from a drugged-out gang member to one of the most revered figures in Chicano literature.

Hundreds of thousands of readers came to know Luis J. Rodriguez through his fearless classic, *Always Running*, which chronicled his early life as a young Chicano gang member surviving the dangerous streets of East Los Angeles. The long-awaited follow-up, *It Calls You Back* is the equally harrowing story of Rodriguez starting over, at age eighteen, after leaving gang life—the only life he really knew.

The book opens with Rodriguez's final stint in jail as a teenager and follows his struggle to kick heroin, renounce his former life, and search for meaningful work. He describes with heartbreaking honesty his challenges as a father, and his difficulty leaving his rages and addictions completely behind. Even as he breaks with "la vida loca" and begins to discover success as a writer and an activist, Rodriguez finds that his past—the crimes, the drugs, the things he'd seen and done—has a way of calling him back.

When his oldest son is sent to prison for attempted murder, Rodriguez is forced to confront his shortcomings as a father, and to acknowledge how and why his own history is repeating itself, right before his eyes.

Deeply insightful and beautifully written, *It Calls You Back* is an odyssey through love, addiction, revolutions, and healing.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"Beautifully written and politically astute." "--Entertainment Weekly"

"Extraordinarily haunting and provocative." "--The Washington Post Book World"

"Rodriguez's account of his coming of age is vivid, raw....Here's truth no television set, burning night and day, could ever begin to offer." "--The New York Times Book Review"

"Rodriguez's life story is astonishing . . . It takes a heart broken open by a lifetime of sorrows to write with this wisdom and compassion. It takes a visionary to use this knowledge in service to those the world despises--troubled youth, the homeless, the incarcerated, the poor, the migrant--to be called back for those you love."

--Sandra Cisneros, author of "Caramelo" and "The House on Mango Street"

"This is a man who understands that 'giving back' is a natural thing to do--and does it in spades. My respect for his metamorphosis can only be described as awe."

--John Densmore, bestselling author of "Riders on the Storm: My Life with Jim Morrison and the Doors"

"Two decades ago Luis Rodriguez became a superhero in Chicano literature with his survivor's story of a gangbanger youth. Here, again, he beautifully details his not-so-ordinary life, its tragedies and graces, but now as a son, husband, father, a worker, journalist, and successful author. With "It Calls You Back", Rodriguez maps out his activist past and leads us into the future. Adelante!"

--Dagoberto Gilb, author of "The Flowers" and "Before the End, After the Beginning"

#### About the Author

The son of Mexican immigrants, **Luis J. Rodríguez** began writing in his early teens and has won national recognition as a poet, journalist, fiction writer, children's book writer, and critic. Rodríguez helped create Tia Chucha's Café & Centro Cultural. Visit [LuisJRodriguez.com](http://LuisJRodriguez.com).

### Users Review

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#### Gregory Jager:

This It Calls You Back: An Odyssey through Love, Addiction, Revolutions, and Healing are reliable for you who want to certainly be a successful person, why. The reason of this It Calls You Back: An Odyssey through Love, Addiction, Revolutions, and Healing can be among the great books you must have is usually giving you more than just simple reading food but feed an individual with information that perhaps will shock your prior knowledge. This book is usually handy, you can bring it almost everywhere and whenever your conditions in the e-book and printed ones. Beside that this It Calls You Back: An Odyssey through

Love, Addiction, Revolutions, and Healing giving you an enormous of experience for example rich vocabulary, giving you demo of critical thinking that we realize it useful in your day pastime. So , let's have it appreciate reading.

**Jose Gray:**

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or maybe 15 minute in your morning to upgrading your mind ability or thinking skill also analytical thinking? Then you have problem with the book compared to can satisfy your small amount of time to read it because this all time you only find guide that need more time to be study. It Calls You Back: An Odyssey through Love, Addiction, Revolutions, and Healing can be your answer as it can be read by a person who have those short extra time problems.

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**William Bell:**

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