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# Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity

*Katherine Boo*

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# Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity

*Katherine Boo*

**Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity** Katherine Boo
In this brilliant, breathtaking book by Pulitzer Prize winner Katherine Boo, a bewildering age of global change and inequality is made human through the dramatic story of families striving toward a better life in Annawadi, a makeshift settlement in the shadow of luxury hotels near the Mumbai airport. As India starts to prosper, the residents of Annawadi are electric with hope. Abdul, an enterprising teenager, sees "a fortune beyond counting" in the recyclable garbage that richer people throw away. Meanwhile Asha, a woman of formidable ambition, has identified a shadier route to the middle class. With a little luck, her beautiful daughter, Annawadi's "most-everything girl," might become its first female college graduate. And even the poorest children, like the young thief Kalu, feel themselves inching closer to their dreams. But then Abdul is falsely accused in a shocking tragedy; terror and global recession rock the city; and suppressed tensions over religion, caste, sex, power, and economic envy turn brutal. With intelligence, humor, and deep insight into what connects people to one another in an era of tumultuous change, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers,* based on years of uncompromising reporting, carries the reader headlong into one of the twenty-first century's hidden worlds—and into the hearts of families impossible to forget.

**Winner of the National Book Award | The PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Award | The Los Angeles Times Book Prize | The American Academy of Arts and Letters Award | The New York Public Library's Helen Bernstein Book Award**

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"A book of extraordinary intelligence [and] humanity . . . beyond groundbreaking."**—Junot Díaz, *The New York Times Book Review***

"Reported like Watergate, written like *Great Expectations,* and handily the best international nonfiction in years."**—*New York***

"This book is both a tour de force of social justice reportage and a literary masterpiece."**—Judges' Citation for the PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Award**

"[A] landmark book."**—*The Wall Street Journal***

“A triumph of a book.”**—Amartya Sen**

“There are books that change the way you feel and see; this is one of them.”**—Adrian Nicole LeBlanc**

“[A] stunning piece of narrative nonfiction . . . [Katherine] Boo’s prose is electric.”***—O: The Oprah Magazine***

“Inspiring, and irresistible . . . Boo’s extraordinary achievement is twofold. She shows us how people in the most desperate circumstances can find the resilience to hang on to their humanity. Just as important, she makes us care.”***—People***

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