



Every Twelve Seconds: Industrialized Slaughter and the Politics of Sight (Yale Agrarian Studies Series)

By Timothy Pachirat

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This is an account of industrialized killing from a participant's point of view. The author, political scientist Timothy Pachirat, was employed undercover for five months in a Great Plains slaughterhouse where 2,500 cattle were killed per day—one every twelve seconds. Working in the cooler as a liver hanger, in the chutes as a cattle driver, and on the kill floor as a food-safety quality-control worker, Pachirat experienced firsthand the realities of the work of killing in modern society. He uses those experiences to explore not only the slaughter industry but also how, as a society, we facilitate violent labor and hide away that which is too repugnant to contemplate.

Through his vivid narrative and ethnographic approach, Pachirat brings to life massive, routine killing from the perspective of those who take part in it. He shows how surveillance and sequestration operate within the slaughterhouse and in its interactions with the community at large. He also considers how society is organized to distance and hide uncomfortable realities from view. With much to say about issues ranging from the sociology of violence and modern food production to animal rights and welfare, *Every Twelve Seconds* is an important and disturbing work.

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Editorial Review

Review

"A truly stunning achievement. Every Twelve Seconds takes us into the slaughterhouse and asks: Why do we work so hard to conceal the daily routine of industrialized killing? The result is a masterpiece that is as sophisticated as it is hard to put down."--Steve Striffler, author of *Chicken: The Dangerous Transformation of America's Favorite Food*

"This is a masterful exposé, written in crystalline prose. In tying the cruelty and dehumanization of industrialized slaughter to the politics of sight, the book adds to a growing canon of recent work . . . by extending people's understanding of and exacerbating human repugnance to one of the great moral failings of current times. Summing Up: Highly recommended."--*CHOICE*

"Pachirat's prose and tone are readable, horrific, and compelling. The documentary spell it casts recalls the steady, unflinching eye of Orwell's *Road to Wigan Pier*. Astonishing."--John Bowe, author of *Nobodies: Slave Labor in Modern America and the Dark Side of the New Global Economy*

"Timothy Pachirat's courageous study of kill floor work exposes the fiction of "humane" slaughter. This book is required reading for people who care about animals and for those interested in how distance and concealment operate in our society."--Gene Baur, President of Farm Sanctuary and author of *Farm Sanctuary: Changing Hearts and Minds About Animals and Food*

Complete with meticulous diagrams showing each worker's position in the slaughterhouse, descriptions of each worker's job duties, and an appendix detailing cattle body parts and their uses, this compelling documentary work illuminates in great detail the workings of an industrial slaughterhouse. VERDICT For anyone curious about the origin of beef in America or those interested in the politics of concealment.--Diana Hartle, Univ. of Georgia Lib., Athens, *Library Journal*

"Pachirat's extraordinary narrative tells us about much more than abused animals and degraded workers. It opens our eyes to the kind of society in which we live."—Peter Singer, author of *Animal Liberation*
(Peter Singer 2011-07-07)

"A lucid writer, Pachirat excels in explaining how a slaughterhouse works."—Ted Conover, *The Nation*
(Ted Conover *The Nation*)

"The book is superbly written, especially given the grimness of the subject."—Mark Bittman, *The New York Times*, Opinionator column
(Mark Bittman *The New York Times*)

"A fascinating, gut-wrenching study—but absolutely not for the weak of stomach."—*Kirkus Reviews*
(*Kirkus Reviews*)

About the Author

Timothy Pachirat is assistant professor, Department of Politics, The New School. He lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jimmy Torres:

The feeling that you get from Every Twelve Seconds: Industrialized Slaughter and the Politics of Sight (Yale Agrarian Studies Series) may be the more deep you digging the information that hide inside the words the more you get interested in reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to comprehend but Every Twelve Seconds: Industrialized Slaughter and the Politics of Sight (Yale Agrarian Studies Series) giving you thrill feeling of reading. The article author conveys their point in specific way that can be understood through anyone who read this because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. That book also makes your vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this specific Every Twelve Seconds: Industrialized Slaughter and the Politics of Sight (Yale Agrarian Studies Series) instantly.

Donald Labelle:

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Eric Hempel:

Within this era which is the greater person or who has ability to do something more are more important than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time almost no but quite enough to get a look at some books. One of many books in the top list in your reading list is usually Every Twelve Seconds: Industrialized Slaughter and the Politics of Sight (Yale Agrarian Studies Series). This book that is certainly qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking way up and review this publication you can get many advantages.

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we know that on this time, many ways to get whatever we want. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. So , this Every Twelve Seconds: Industrialized Slaughter and the Politics of Sight (Yale Agrarian Studies Series) can make you truly feel more interested to read.

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