

Humboldt: Life on America's Marijuana Frontier

By Emily Brady

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Say the words "Humboldt County" to a stranger and you might receive a knowing grin. The name is infamous, and yet the place, and its inhabitants, have been nearly impenetrable. Until now.

Humboldt is the true story of an insular community in Northern California, which for nearly 40 years has existed primarily on the cultivation and sale of marijuana. It's a place where business is done with thick wads of cash and savings are buried in the backyard. In Humboldt County, marijuana supports everything from fire departments to schools, but it comes with a heavy price.

As legalization looms, the community stands at a crossroads and its inhabitants are deeply divided on the issue--some want to claim their rightful heritage as master growers and have their livelihood legitimized, others want to continue reaping the inflated profits of the black market.

Emily Brady spent a year living with the highly secretive residents of Humboldt County, and her cast of eccentric, intimately drawn characters take us into a fascinating, alternate universe. It's the story of a small town that became dependent on a forbidden plant, and of how everything is changing as marijuana goes mainstream.

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Editorial Review

Review
"It's a big story. But Brady makes it sing with her prose." ***The Boston Globe***

"A compelling, detailed look at the life of this highly idiosyncratic and necessarily secretive community." ***Los Angeles Review of Books***

"Emily Brady details in her excellent book...the massive amounts of money and manpower that the United States has expended unsuccessfully battling marijuana." **The Nation**

"Epic...an empathetic but unflinching portrait of a community caught in the legalization movement's crosswinds." **Mother Jones**

"Goes where very few female reporters have gone before...reads like a fast-moving work of fiction." **San Francisco Chronicle**

"In a rare journalistic feat, Emily Brady burrowed deep inside an infamous subculture and emerged with a luminous but haunting dispatch about a secretive community of outlaw pot growers--some of whom would rather risk their lives than see their profits crushed by the decriminalization of cannabis. Brady's brave reporting pulls no punches yet makes no judgments as she chronicles four people torn by their allegiances to a place that represents the beauty and ruthlessness of the modern American frontier-and the hypocrisy of the country's drug policy. *Humboldt* is a triumph of immersion reporting: vivid, compassionate, maddening and unforgettable."
--**Jonathan Schuppe**, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter and author of *A Chance to Win*

"Emily Brady escorts you into the redwood-studded mountains of northern California where a secretive marijuana culture thrives-for now-outside the law. Deeply reported and populated with vibrant characters spanning generations, *Humboldt* documents the real lives behind America's favorite high. A fascinating and timely read."
--David Kinney, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter and author of *The Big One*

"Emily Brady has written a terrifically gripping book about America's confused relationship with marijuana. A tour-de-force of investigative journalism, Brady takes us inside the world of pot growers in God's own country, and illuminates the policy issues around legalization in a series of beautifully rendered character portraits." **--Suketu Mehta**, author of the Pulitzer Prize finalist MAXIMUM CITY: *Bombay Lost and Found*

"In her vivid, hypnotic HUMBOLDT, Emily Brady brings the notoriously secretive pot-growing community of Northern California to life through the lives of four very different Humboldters, whose nuanced stories form together like wisps of smoke." **-Julian Rubinstein**, author of the international bestseller *Ballad of the Whiskey Robber*

"Emily Brady has written a masterful *opus dopus*-to borrow a phrase from her book-chronicling the dreams and struggles of a community that has become infamous worldwide for their controversial cash crop. In *Humboldt*, she takes a clear-eyed look at the marijuana industry: its growers, trimmers, dealers, and family-

run businesses. Readers will come away with a newfound and nuanced understanding of pot, but this is really a book about people whose outrageous, funny, and heartbreaking stories you won't soon forget."
--**Brooke Hauser**, author of *THE NEW KIDS: Big Dreams and Brave Journeys at a High School for Immigrant Teens*

"In her book *Humboldt,* Emily Brady takes us on a rowdy off-road trip into the homeland of marijuana moonshining, where pit bulls guard the fields, cash fills up holes in the ground, and it's a bad idea to ask anyone you encounter what they do for a living."
--**Bruce Porter**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Blow*

About the Author
Emily Brady was born and raised in Northern California. A graduate of Columbia University's School of Journalism, she has written for the *New York Times, Time,* the *Village Voice* and other publications. She lives in San Francisco with her husband and daughter.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alma Hillyer:

This book untitled Humboldt: Life on America's Marijuana Frontier to be one of several books that best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retail outlet or you can order it via online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, as you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this publication from your list.

Elisabeth Martinez:

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Edwin Ball:

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Margaret Conley:

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