



Reminiscent of Katherine Boo's bestseller, Behind the Beautiful Forevers, this vivid, cautionary tale of urban inequality and the human suffering caused by climate change recounts the true stories of two Nicaraguan families' quests to survive in one of the world's most disaster-prone cities

Every Day We Live Is the Future

Surviving in a City of Disasters

BY DOUGLAS HAYNES

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WHEN SHE WAS ONLY NINE, DAYANI BALDELOMAR LEFT HER NICARAGUAN VILLAGE WITH NOTHING MORE THAN A CHANGE OF CLOTHES. She was among tens of thousands of rural migrants to Managua in the 1980s and 1990s. After years of homelessness, Dayani landed in a shantytown called The Widows, squeezed between a drainage ditch and putrid Lake Managua. Her neighbor, Yadira Castellón, also migrated from the mountains. Driven by hope for a better future for their children, Dayani, Yadira, and their husbands invent jobs in Managua's spreading markets and dumps, joining the planet's burgeoning informal economy. But a swelling tide of family crises and environmental calamities threaten to break their toehold in the city.

Dayani's and Yadira's struggles reveal one of the world's biggest challenges: by 2050, almost one-third of all people will likely live in slums without basic services, vulnerable to disasters caused by the convergence of climate change and breakneck urbanization. To tell their stories, Douglas Haynes followed Dayani's and Yadira's families for five years, learning firsthand how their lives in the city are a tightrope walk between new opportunities and chronic insecurity. *Every Day We Live Is the Future* is a gripping, unforgettable account of two women's herculean efforts to persevere and educate their children. It sounds a powerful call for understanding the growing risks to new urbanites, how to help them prosper, and why their lives matter for us all.

"This is a vivid and gritty account of life in the kind of urban shantytown where a huge percentage of humanity lives out a lifetime. Surviving there is hard and getting harder, as a changing environment multiplies the misery—and demands real action from all of us. A crucial read."

—BILL MCKIBBEN,
author of *Deep Economy*



FROM BACK TO FRONT: Xiomara, Ana Teresa, Jason, Byron, and Maria outside their home in The Widows, 2012, photo by Elizabeth Kay.

"In this soulful book about what it means to exist on the polluted-crowded-dirty-colorful-vibrant-loving margins of a twenty-first-century metropolis, Douglas Haynes clarifies the complex issues affecting families in such cities—at once describing with elegance and insight the world as it is now, and as it increasingly everywhere may be."

—PAUL BOGARD,
author of *The End of Night* and *The Ground Beneath Us*

"For the valiant women of this book, climate change isn't a theory but a battle waged daily. Douglas Haynes recreates their stories in luminous prose that conveys a deep sense of empathy. An urgent and necessary read."

—STEPHANIE ELIZONDO GRIEST,
author of *All the Agents and Saints: Dispatches from the U.S. Borderlands*