

[PDF] Spare Parts: Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot, And The Battle For The American Dream

Joshua Davis - pdf download free book

Joshua Davis's *Spare Parts* opens in 2004, when four Latino teenagers enter a national competition to design and build a robot. Brian, Lorenzo, Cristian, and Luis were all born in Mexico but raised in Phoenix, Arizona, where they grew up in a suburban town of American. Their high school teachers of white from the nearest town, with no one. The money is tight, and even their parents are skeptical about the project. But when the teenagers learned that the first national competition was scheduled for 2005, a realization would be going forward, a tiny seed, and a good-looking team—needed something different to face them.

Then comes, when they suddenly begin to meet each other in a suburban town, they meet with the competition. They were up against some of the best robotic engineers in the country, including a team from MIT led by a \$10,000 grant from Intel. The Phoenix teenagers had scraped together less than \$1,000 and built their robot out of scavenged parts, donated materials from a local electronics store, while taking spring a real job. It was a real challenge, a real handful of teenagers.

But the real test is only the beginning for the four young men, whose story takes us from the rugged back of their parents in the halls of Congress and from the battlefields of Afghanistan to the open spaces of the American Southwest. It is a story about America's real struggle, not just about the struggle of being an immigrant, but about the struggle of being a young man in the land of opportunity.

A reading group guide for *Spare Parts* is available at www.ReadingGroupGuides.com.



JOSHUA DAVIS is a contributing writer at *Wired*, a columnist at *Esquire*, and the author of *The Changing of the Guard*.

"It's the most American of stories, how determination and ingenuity can bring triumph over long odds. There are few real stories like this written about Latino students, immigrant and beautiful. *Spare Parts* makes you feel Cristian, Lorenzo, Luis, and Oscar's frustration at the obstacles and indignities that have and make you cheer as they rise to overcome each one of them."

—**DAVID KAMEN**, author of *Empire's Journey*

"This is a book about the beauty and of understanding you a humanity plus a lack of discipline about a these things and building a nation. I love these kids!"

—**JOHN BARNES**, author of *Godfathers*

"*Spare Parts* is an unforgettable tale of hope and human ingenuity. ... A moving testament to how teamwork, perseverance, and the good fortune can lift you and inspire you to the heights of achievement."

—**CHRIS BROWN**, author of *Deep Water*

"*Spare Parts* is one of those rare stories that grabs hold and doesn't let go. It's inspiring, real, and beautiful. You'll want to read the book and cheer for the heroes of the American dream and where we will find the next generation of heroes."

—**DAVID ANDERSON**, author of *The Long Fall*

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Description:

Finalist for the J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize

Four undocumented Mexican American students, two great teachers, one robot-building contest . . . and a major motion picture

In 2004, four Latino teenagers arrived at the Marine Advanced Technology Education Robotics Competition at the University of California, Santa Barbara. They were born in Mexico but raised in Phoenix, Arizona, where they attended an underfunded public high school. No one had ever suggested to Oscar, Cristian, Luis, or Lorenzo that they might amount to much—but two inspiring science teachers had convinced these impoverished, undocumented kids from the desert who had never even seen the ocean that they should try to build an underwater robot.

And build a robot they did. Their robot wasn't pretty, especially compared to those of the competition. They were going up against some of the best collegiate engineers in the country, including a team from MIT backed by a \$10,000 grant from ExxonMobil. The Phoenix teenagers had scraped together less than \$1,000 and built their robot out of scavenged parts. This was never a level competition—and yet, against all odds . . . they won!

But this is just the beginning for these four, whose story—which became a key inspiration to the DREAMers movement—will go on to include first-generation college graduations, deportation, bean-picking in Mexico, and service in Afghanistan.

Joshua Davis's *Spare Parts* is a story about overcoming insurmountable odds and four young men who proved they were among the most patriotic and talented Americans in this country—even as the country tried to kick them out.

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