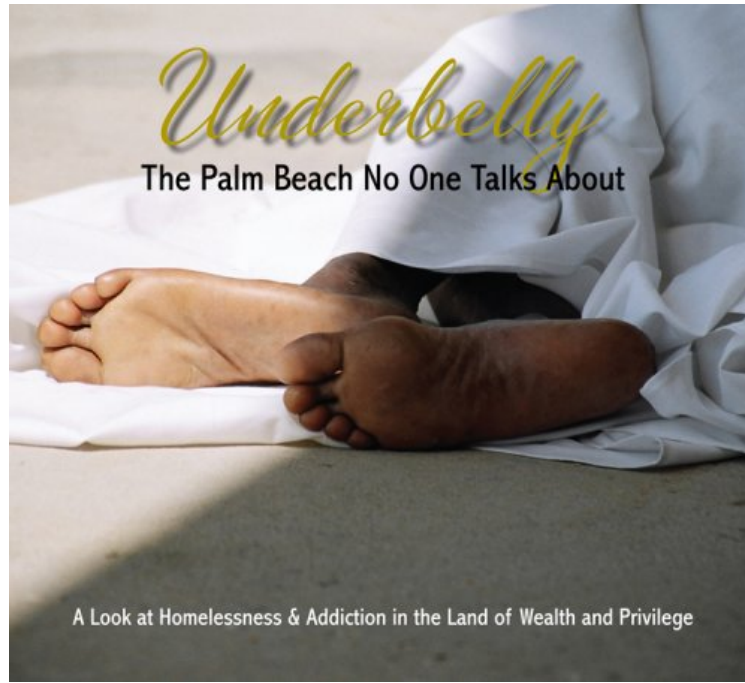


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## Underbelly

David Martin Geliebter

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**David Martin Geliebter : Underbelly** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Underbelly:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Underbelly. By Page 68 Awesome stories with touching photos of real people. The shame of Palm Beach County exposed by the inspiring book. Richard has captured the men and women of substance abuse. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Underbelly is a tough read, but so very important. By Kimberly Mitchell To see the faces of many I recognize, who continue to live without hope, is heartbreaking. When I first opened the book, I leafed quickly through it to see if I could find a lovely woman, Mae, who I adored. She was shunned by her family, who lived up north, and gracefully walked through our city, day in and day out, with a smile on her face and in her heart. She never asked for anything and actually seemed embarrassed I would ask, but was always happy to engage in just about any conversation or topic. Mae was found in a construction site in the downtown several months ago. Police still cannot find a motive for the brutal beating and senseless murder. Her purse was found on a bench near her body with a small amount of money still inside. Many in my city, including me, struggle to find ways to help with the growing need of so many, especially the children. As hard as it was to read the intimate stories, I applaud Mr. Geliebter for his commitment to show us the story of actual lives ... human beings living in our city in inhumane conditions. His work will serve to make my work that much more urgent. Kimberly Mitchell West Palm Beach City Commissioner 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The best book I've read all year. By Mark C Very powerful and moving. Unlike any other book on poverty, Underbelly is a series of stories told by the homeless themselves. Each story is started with a picture of the subject. I found myself stopping every few pages and looking back at their photos. It created such an intimacy, and honesty - it made me feel like I was sitting

across from them, looking them in the eye, and feeling their pain. Dozens of amazing and heartfelt stories. But for me, the best was Stephen Johnson's. His journey, as detailed in the book, is the most inspiring tale of what it really means to find wealth in life. His moment of transformation literally gave me goose bumps. Nothing is more shocking than the backdrop of this book - one of the wealthiest societies in the world - Palm Beach. I've read it twice, and will likely read it again.

The Author speaks out on UNDERBELLY: The Palm Beach No One Talks About Some 100 years ago Upton Sinclair's novel *The Jungle* shocked people with its depiction of the horrid life of the have-nots, balanced against the excesses of the corrupt and powerful haves. As a result of Sinclair's book, which exposed deplorable conditions in the meat packing industry, foreign sales of American meat fell in half and the Federal government instituted legislation that led to the passage of laws and the establishment of the FDA. Now comes *Underbelly*, a non-fiction account of the lives of the homeless and addicted that shines a bright light on a very dark place in our society. Say the words 'Palm Beach' and you picture a land of wealth and privilege bestowed upon only a select few, a place where rich is practically a religion. But there's another side to this tony enclave and the county that shares its name, one hidden from view, one rarely talked about, a seedy underbelly that you won't read about on the society pages of the Palm Beach Post or in 'the shiny sheet.' In this world, addiction or poverty is the only ticket you need to gain entry. While these two worlds may share the same space, like two positively charged magnets, they never quite touch, propelled away from each other by an invisible force. *Underbelly* examines this side of Palm Beach. *Underbelly* is filled with the stories of people who, by happenstance or poor choices, find themselves part of the sad castoffs of our society, told in their own words, often sad, sometimes heartbreaking, occasionally explicit, and, yes, even funny - but always true. The pictures (some 100) say as much, as they show the hardships of the streets, the suffering in the eyes, the torture to the bodies, and the wasting away of once-promising minds. With this book, these few people, at least, are no longer anonymous faces on the street we turn to avoid. They have names, they have stories, they have hopes and dreams, and their pain is no less meaningful than our own.