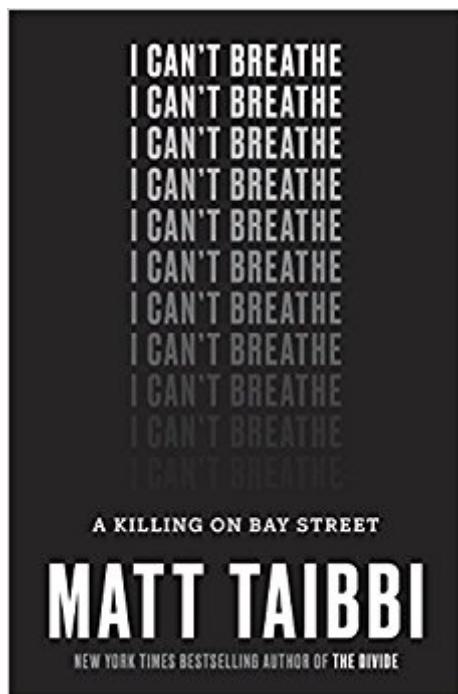


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# I Can't Breathe: A Killing On Bay Street



## Synopsis

A work of riveting literary journalism that explores the roots and repercussions of the infamous killing of Eric Garner by the New York City policeâ "from the bestselling author of *The Divide* Â On July 17, 2014, a forty-three-year-old black man named Eric Garner died on a Staten Island sidewalk after a police officer put him in what has been described as an illegal chokehold during an arrest for selling bootleg cigarettes. The final moments of Garnerâ ™s life were captured on video and seen by millions. His agonized last words, â œl canâ ™t breathe,â • became a rallying cry for the nascent Black Lives Matter protest movement. A grand jury ultimately declined to indict the officer who wrestled Garner to the pavement. Â Matt Taibbiâ ™s deeply reported retelling of these events liberates Eric Garner from the abstractions of newspaper accounts and lets us see the man in fullâ "with all his flaws and contradictions intact. A husband and father with a complicated personal history, Garner was neither villain nor victim, but a fiercely proud individual determined to do the best he could for his family, bedeviled by bad luck, and ultimately subdued by forces beyond his control.Â In America, no miscarriage of justice exists in isolation, of course, and in *I Canâ ™t Breathe* Taibbi also examines the conditions that made this tragedy possible. Featuring vivid vignettes of life on the street and inside our Kafkaesque court system, Taibbiâ ™s kaleidoscopic account illuminates issues around policing, mass incarceration, the underground economy, and racial disparity in law enforcement. No one emerges unsullied, from the conservative district attorney who half-heartedly prosecutes the case to the progressive mayor caught between the demands of outraged activists and the foot-dragging of recalcitrant police officials.Â A masterly narrative of urban America and a scathing indictment of the perverse incentives built into our penal system, *I Canâ ™t Breathe* drills down into the particulars of one case to confront us with the human cost of our broken approach to dispensing criminal justice. Praise for Matt Taibbi Â à œMatt Taibbi is [Hunter S.] Thompsonâ ™s heir.â •â "Seattle Post-Intelligencer

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for Matt Taibbi

âœMatt Taibbi is [Hunter S.] Thompsonâ™s heir.â•â "Seattle Post-Intelligencer" The Divide âœThese are the stories that will keep you up at night. . . . The Divide is not just a report from the new America; it is advocacy journalism at its finest.â•â "Los Angeles Times" âœPowerful and shocking . . . an important book.â•â "The Washington Post" âœCaptivating . . . The Divide enshrines its authorâ™s position as one of the most important voices in contemporary American journalism.â•â "The Independent (UK)" Griftopia âœA stinging new history of the financial crisis that heralds a return of Mencken-esque, dirt-under-the-fingernails American journalism.â•â "GQ" âœA relentlessly disturbing, penetrating exploration of the root causes of the trauma that upended economic security in millions of American homes . . . a full-scale indictment of Wall Street and Washington.â•â "The New York Times Book Review" âœTaibbi chronicles the corruption of the political process with indignation and dark humor. The takeaway? Be angry, but blame the right culprits.â•â "Time

Matt Taibbi has been a contributing editor for Rolling Stone and the author of five previous books, including the New York Times bestsellers The Great Derangement, Griftopia, and The Divide. He lives in New Jersey.

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