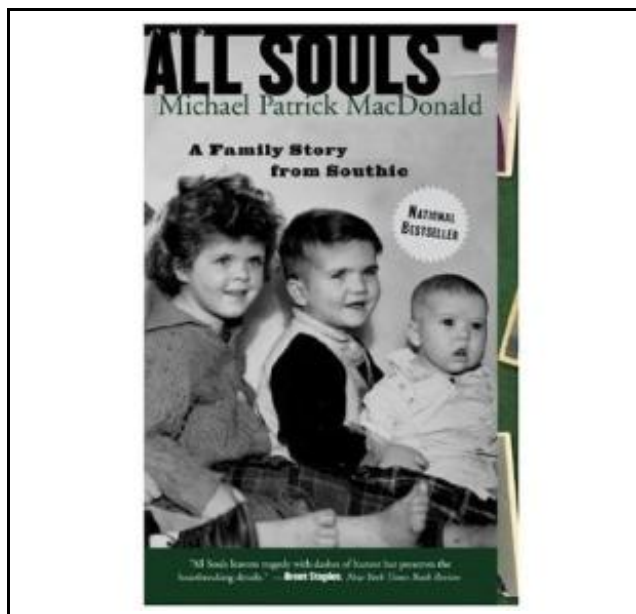


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Beacon Press, United States, 2008. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 211 x 140 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. A breakaway bestseller since its first printing, *All Souls* takes us deep into Michael Patrick MacDonald's Southie, the proudly insular neighborhood with the highest concentration of white poverty in America. The anti-busing riots of 1974 forever changed Southie, Boston's working class Irish community, branding it as a violent, racist enclave. Michael Patrick MacDonald grew up in Southie's Old Colony housing project. He describes the way this world within a world felt to the troubled yet keenly gifted observer he was even as a child: [as if] we were protected, as if the whole neighborhood was watching our backs for threats, watching for all the enemies we could never really define. But the threats-poverty, drugs, a shadowy gangster world-were real. MacDonald lost four of his siblings to violence and poverty. *All Souls* is heart-breaking testimony to lives lost too early, and the story of how a place so filled with pain could still be the best place in the world. We meet Ma, Michael's mini-skirted, accordion-playing, usually single mother who cares for her children there are eventually eleven through a combination of high spirits and inspired getting over. And there are Michael's older siblings Davey, sweet artist-dreamer; Kevin, child genius of scam; and Frankie, Golden Gloves boxer and neighborhood hero whose lives are high-wire acts played out in a world of poverty and pride. But too soon Southie becomes a place controlled by resident gangster Whitey Bulger, later revealed to be an FBI informant even as he ran the drug culture that Southie supposedly never had. It was a world primed for the escalation of class violence-and then, with deadly and sickening inevitability, of racial violence...

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