

The Hands that Crafted the Bomb

Josh Fernandez

Josh Fernandez is a community college professor who finds himself under investigation for "soliciting students for potentially dangerous activities" after starting an antifascist club on campus.

As Fernandez spends the year defending his job, he reflects on a life lived in protest of the status quo, swept up in chaos and rage, from his childhood in Boston dealing with a mentally ill father and a new family to growing up in Davis, California, in the basement shows of the early '90s when Nazi boneheads proliferated the music scene, looking for heads to crack. His crew's first attempts at an antifascist group fall short when a member dies in a knife fight. A born antiauthoritarian, filled with an untamable rage, Fernandez rails against the system and aggressively chooses the path of most resistance. This leads to long spates of living in his car, strung out on drugs, and robbing the whiteboys coming home from the clubs at night.

Fernandez eventually realizes that his rage needs an outlet and finds relief for his existential dread in the form of running. And fighting Nazis. Fernandez cobbles together a life for himself as a writing professor, a facilitator of a self-defense collective, a boots-on-the-ground participant in Antifa work, and a proud father of two children he unapologetically raises to question authority.

But his parents and academia seem to think Fernandez is failing miserably, putting his children and his students at risk, and they treat Fernandez like he's a time bomb, ready to explode at any moment. They may have a point.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joshua Fernandez is an anti-racist organizer, father, runner, fighter, English professor, and a writer, whose stories have appeared in *Spin*, the *Sacramento Bee*, *The Hard Times*, and several alternative news weeklies. He lives in Sacramento, CA.

ACCOLADES

"*The Hands that Crafted the Bomb* is nothing less than incendiary, a memoir as timely and vital as it is irreverent, as gritty, and uncomfortable as it is necessary. Josh Fernandez is punk as f#*k!"

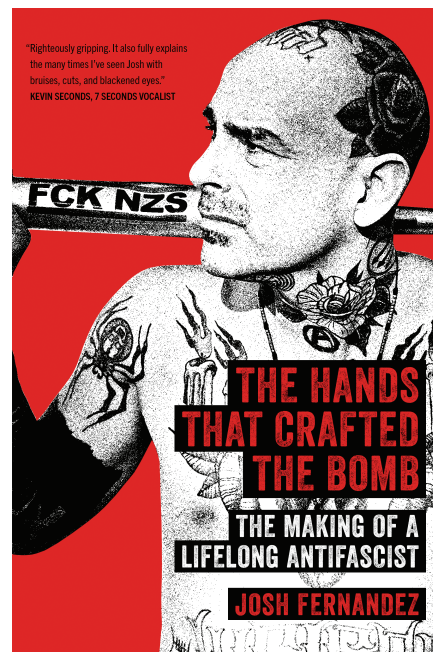
—Jonathan Evison, *New York Times* Bestselling author of *All About Lulu*

"*The Hands that Crafted the Bomb* really brought back memories for me, but also hit home the kind of fight we face today. Today's neo-fascists are more emboldened but this account from someone that has been on the frontlines of fighting them for decades is a good roadmap for those who wish to continue it. It shows the major hazards along the way, namely the threats to one's own security in life, but overall shows the benefits which ultimately what matters. Don't sleep on this!"

—Daryle Lamont Jenkins, executive director of One People's Project

"This man really puts his money where his mouth is ... This book reads like a life story told by your tio, and it's a gift for every person who reads it."

—Alexia Roditis, *Destroy Boys*



SUBJECT CATEGORY

Biography / Political / Social Activists / Anarchism / Antifascism

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