

# Redlined

**A MEMOIR OF RACE, CHANGE, AND FRACTURED COMMUNITY  
IN 1960S CHICAGO** By Linda Gartz

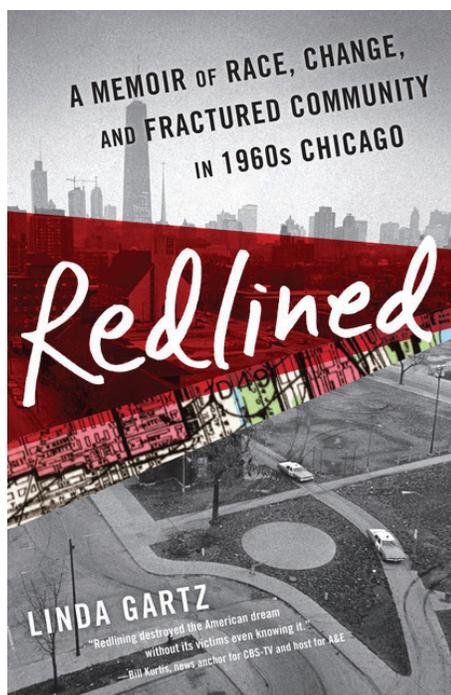
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**A UNIQUE FIRST-PERSON PERSPECTIVE ON A HISTORIC INJUSTICE**

***Redlined: A Memoir of Race, Change, and Fractured Community in 1960s Chicago.* By Linda Gartz**



**Book Specs:**

**Title:** *Redlined: A Memoir of Race, Change, and Fractured Community in 1960s Chicago*

**Paperback:** 315 pages

**Publisher:** She Writes Press  
(April 3, 2018)

**Distributed by:** Ingram Publishing  
Services

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**ISBN-13:** 978-1631523205

**About the Book:**

In the era of #BlackLivesMatter, Linda Gartz reaches into the historic roots of the segregation that has created impoverished, violent communities, like her former West Side Chicago neighborhood.

Set against the backdrop of the Civil Rights Movement, *Redlined* exposes the federal government's racist lending policy, called "redlining." In a riveting story of a Chicago family caught in the middle when their lives and community are fractured by the racial turmoil and social upheavals in the 1960s, *Redlined* delivers a powerful insider's view of a racially changing community interwoven with the author's coming-of-age story in a tumultuous era.

Based on a treasure trove of long-hidden letters, diaries, photos, and more, which Gartz discovered in her parents' attic after their deaths, *Redlined* explores the impact of race, mental illness, fraught family relationships, and the Gartz family neighborhood's racial change on her parents, as they struggle to make a living from their sprawling two-flat rooming house.

When the first black family moves onto their block in the early 1960s, whites flee by the thousands, but Gartz's parents, Fred and Lil, stay, overcoming prejudices as they come to know and like their new African American neighbors. The community sinks into increasing poverty and crime after two race riots destroy its once-vibrant business district, but Fred and Lil continue nurturing their tenants and property for thirty more years in a devastated landscape—even as their own relationship cracks and withers.

Gartz's story is not unique to Chicago. Cities throughout the country were redlined, but this story of racial change in America has never been told from the point of view of those who lived it—until now.

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## About Linda Gartz:

Six-time Emmy-honored Linda Gartz is a documentary producer, author, blogger, educator, and curator of the Gartz Family Papers, which she has arranged to donate to Chicago's venerable research institution, the Newberry Library. She grew up on Chicago's West Side and came of age during her neighborhood's racial change in the 1960s. She was inspired to write *Redlined* after discovering her family's letters and diaries documenting most of the twentieth century, including her community's rapid transition from virtually all-white to mostly black in a matter of months.

Her documentaries and TV productions have been featured on ABC, NBC, CBS, PBS, and Investigation Discovery, syndicated nation-wide. Her educational videos include *Begin with Love*, hosted by Oprah Winfrey and *Grandparenting*, hosted by Maya Angelou. Gartz's articles and essays have been published in literary journals, online, and in local and national magazines and newspapers, including the *Chicago Tribune*. Born in Chicago, Linda studied at both Northwestern University and the University of Munich, and has lived most of her adult life in Evanston, IL. She earned her B.A. and M.A.T. degrees from Northwestern.

## REDLINED IS AN AWARD-WINNING BOOK!

2018 Book of the Year, Indie Nonfiction  
Chicago Writers Association

Kirkus Reviews' Best Books of 2018

Top Non-Fiction Books of 2018  
*Conversations with Cyrus Webb*

honored by:

Readers' Favorite Silver Award  
International Book Awards

New York Festival of Book Awards  
American Book Fest Best Book Awards



## Media:

Linda has been interviewed about *Redlined* in both print, on radio, and in Live Facebook Chats (see her website for more), including:

- *Chicago Tribune* columnist ("Balancing Act"), Heidi Stevens: Live Facebook Chat
- *The Atlantic*: *Redlined* is recommended in the Nov. 30th "Books Briefing"
- WBEZ (Chicago's NPR Station) 91.5 FM Morning Shift: Interview with Jenn White
- WGN Radio 720AM
  - *The John Williams Show*: Interview with John Williams
  - *After Hours*: Interview with Rick Kogan
- WVON Radio, 1690AM, *The Perri Small Show*: Interview with Perri Small
- *Chicago Sun-Times* Podcast – *The Zebra Sisters*: Interview with *Sun-Times* columnists, Mary Mitchell and Leslie Baldacci
- *Conversations Live*: Interview with Cyrus Webb

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## Reviews:

Links to each full book review can be found on Linda's website under:  
"Media and Reviews."

"A stunning debut memoir . . . A rich remembrance of a captivating transformative era in American History." —*Kirkus Reviews*, [starred]  
Chosen as 1 of 6 "Indie Best Books of the Month May 2018"

"In this compelling journey into the depths of racism, Linda Gartz peels back the onion of America's original sin to a new level. A captivating personal story told through the lives of her Chicago family, Gartz probes the invisible web of oppression that affected both whites and blacks. Redlining destroyed the American dream without its victims even knowing it." —*Bill Kurtis*, author, Peabody and Emmy Award-winner, news anchor for CBS Television network, and TV host for A&E

"I didn't just love reading this memoir, I appreciated it. . . . *Redlined* is a beacon of enlightenment in our current American society."  
—*Readers' Favorite*, 5 of 5 stars

". . . an exceptionally rich and readable memoir of family, change, and coming of age in the tumultuous 1960s. . . ."  
—*Foreword Clarion Review*, 5 of 5 stars

". . . You will be blown away by this book."  
—*Online Book Club*, 4 of 4 stars

"*Redlined* is absolutely riveting from cover to cover."  
—*Midwest Book Review: Reviewer's Choice*

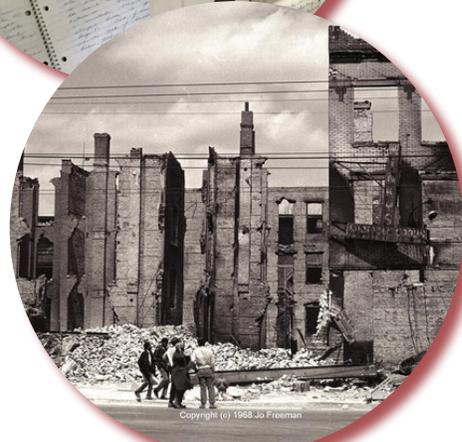
"A fascinating first-person memoir of how a racist government policy affected West Garfield Park"  
—*Bob Chiarito*, *The Chicago Ambassador*, April 2017

"A deeply humane perspective on [how] economic need, racism, and ideals of duty shaped the lives of urban white Americans in the twentieth century." —*Beryl Satter*, Professor, Department of History, Rutgers University, and author of *Family Properties: Race, Real Estate, and the Exploitation of Black Urban America*

"[Gartz] deftly interweaves a story of family striving, domestic resentments, and individual decency with the seismic cultural shifts of America's social and sexual revolutions." —*Amanda I. Seligman*, Chair, Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and author of *Block by Block: Neighborhoods and Public Policy on Chicago's West Side*

"Fearless and precise Gartz has written a book that is impossible to put down. . . . An extraordinary achievement." —*Sharon Solwitz*, author of *Once, in Lourdes*, 2018 First Place, Fiction, Society of Midland Authors

"Beautifully told and a compelling read." —*Jim Grimsley*, author of *How I Shed My Skin: Unlearning the Racist Lessons of a Southern Childhood*



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