

Praise for *The Invisible*

The Invisible rings a bell for justice like the Salvation Army outside the shopping mall at Christmas. Arloa is persistent, and she is contagious. This book is brim full of good sermons, and Arloa's life is her best sermon. Here is a message that will ring hope in your ears whether you are in a small town in Iowa or the Southside of Chicago. Arloa's words are filled with the promise and the dare that we can all do something beautiful for God in response to the suffering of others. Arloa reminds us that when we ask God to do something about poverty, God is saying back to us, "I did do something. I made you."

—Shane Claiborne, author, activist, recovering sinner

Everything about the Arloa I have known for more than twenty years and now see in her book, *The Invisible*, breathes integrity. How could I not admire her rural-to-urban journey, her amazing resiliency over time, her capacity to live with chaos and ambiguities on every side? I was reminded on nearly every page that Arloa has been teachable—she can learn from nurturing little lambs on the farm to saving lives on city streets. Broken people on the journey have given her new lenses to see familiar Scriptures in new ways. Like the most famous urban ministry leader of my lifetime, Teresa of Calcutta, Arloa reminds me that God is using her in places and ways that totally transcend her race and gender. Not incidentally, she is also reminding me why Chicago is still the perfect lab and base for her teaching and writing. Idiosyncratic characters leap off the streets in her writing. Jesus has chosen to turn her pain and vulnerability into a power that transforms people and places.

—Ray Bakke, Chancellor, Bakke Graduate University

The Invisible makes God's people visible. I will never be the same after reading Arloa Sutter's words. She has forever changed my heart, redirected my passion, and moved me to action. Arloa is a brilliant champion of community, involvement, engagement, and truth! When it comes to transforming the face of poverty, her wisdom is essential to the conversation. Her life among the urban poor is a beautiful story of hope and reconciliation. From this place, she calls us to wrestle with the issues and be God's voice of change together.

—Rev. Tracey Bianchi, pastor for women at Christ Church of Oak Brook

Arloa is a passionate leader and advocate for the poor. Her life and work are an inspiration to me. *The Invisible* will inspire many to see and live out God's heart for "the least of these."

—Leroy Barber, President of Mission Year

If you want God to capture more of your heart, read this book. If you want God's presence to pour through your heart, read this book. If you want to join God where he is working, read this book. Arloa Sutter is a woman after God's own heart. From first-hand experience, I can tell you she is the real deal. She has faithfully communicated the heart of God for the poor for nearly twenty years, and the fruit produced can only be explained by acknowledging "God did it." This book wasn't written from an ivory tower, but from the hardened streets of Chicago. The stories that Arloa shares and the journey she describes are compelling. If you like true stories that inspire, read this book.

—Don Cousins, Bible teacher and author

The Invisible should be required reading for every person in America. Arloa Sutter has lived it—she knows the problems. Using God's words, she gives surprisingly simple answers to our recurring question about how to make a difference in the lives of people sorely in need of a blessing. You will never be able to look in the eyes of a homeless person again and ask yourself, *What will happen to me if I get involved?* Now it's, *What will happen to them if I don't?* Arloa reminds all Christians especially that (in the words of my friend and coauthor, Denver Moore), "We is all homeless . . . just a workin' our way home."

—Ron Hall, coauthor of *Same Kind of Different as Me*

I heartily recommend *The Invisible*. It is a vital resource for anyone looking to understand God's heart for the poor. One of the most encouraging trends I see today is the Christian church reawakening to God's timeless care and concern for the least and last among us. But an awakening without proper training can lead to tremendous frustration and pain for everyone involved. This book shows churches the way.

—Daniel Hill, senior pastor, River City Community Church

I've never met anyone quite like the author of this book, Arloa Sutter. Listen to her. She is a powerful force for the good—single-mindedly dedicated to improving the lives of the poor. The time I have spent with her has touched me deeply and changed the way I think about poverty and homelessness. If only there were more people like Arloa, the world would be a much better place.

—Steven Levitt, coauthor of *Freakonomics* and *Superfreakonomics*

The Invisible is a compelling personal journey from the Iowa countryside to the toughest streets of Chicago, leading Breakthrough (one of the most successful urban ministries of our times). It is Arloa Sutter's journey of faith into action—a journey enhanced along the way with true stories of people's transformation from poverty to meaningful life, from compassionate wealth at arm's length to meaningful and personal action. Arloa frankly tackles the questions we have about poverty, and with Scripture and gentle reason, she draws the reader through the journey into an active and full life. Read the book at your own risk . . . but risk that cannot lose, with faith that leads to life-changing action.

—Mary Nelson, president emeritus, Bethel New Life