

# MIRRORS

STORIES OF ALMOST EVERYONE

*Eduardo Galeano*

ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY MARK FRIED



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I realized in time that they would have taken up more pages than  
the nearly six hundred stories themselves.

Neither have I listed the many collaborators whose assistance allowed  
*Mirrors* to become more than just a raving notion. I cannot, however,  
fail to mention several who had the patience to read the final manu-  
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and Raquel Villagra. This book is dedicated to them and to the innum-  
erable friends who made this impossible task possible.

*Y para Helena, muy*

*Montevideo, the final days of 2007*

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Father paint me the earth on my body.

—Sioux chant from South Dakota

*Mirrors are filled with people.*

*The invisible see us.*

*The forgotten recall us.*

*When we see ourselves, we see them.*

*When we turn away, do they?*

### BORN OF DESIRE

\*

Life was alone, no name, no memory. It had hands, but no one to touch. It had a tongue, but no one to talk to. Life was one, and one was none.

Then desire drew his bow. The arrow of desire split life down the middle, and life was two.

When they caught sight of each other, they laughed. When they touched each other, they laughed again.

### A FEAST ON FOOT

\*

Adam and Eve were black?

The human adventure in the world began in Africa. From there, our ancestors set out to conquer the planet. Many paths led them to many destinies, and the sun took care of handing out colors from the palette.

Now the rainbow of the earth is more colorful than the rainbow of the sky. But we are all emigrants from Africa. Even the whitest of whites comes from Africa.