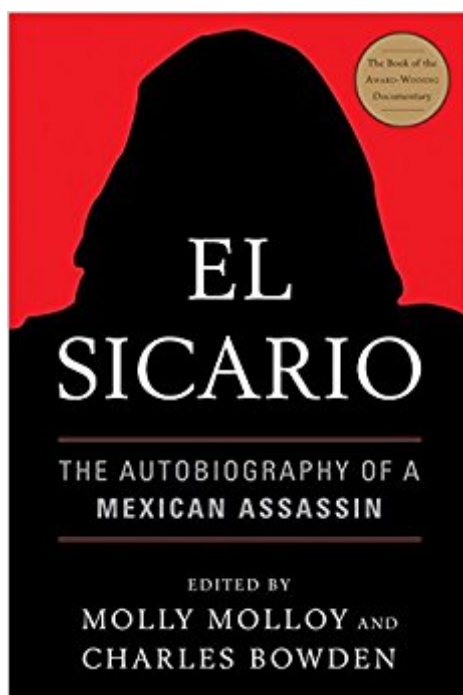


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El Sicario: The Autobiography Of A Mexican Assassin



Synopsis

In this unprecedented and chilling monologue, a repentant Mexican hitman tells the unvarnished truth about the war on drugs on the American. El Sicario is the hidden face of America's war on drugs. He is a contract killer who functioned as a commandante in the Chihuahuan State police, who was trained in the US by the FBI, and who for twenty years kidnapped, tortured and murdered people for the drug industry at the behest of Mexican drug cartels. He is a hit man who came off the killing fields alive. He left the business and turned to Christ. And then he decided to tell the story of his life and work. Charles Bowden first encountered El Sicario while reporting for the book "Murder City". As trust between the two men developed, Bowden bore witness to the Sicario's unfolding confession, and decided to tell his story. The well-spoken man that emerges from the pages of El Sicario is one who has been groomed by poverty and driven by a refusal to be one more statistic in the failure of Mexico. He is not boastful, he claims no major standing in organized crime. But he can explain in detail not only torture and murder, but how power is distributed and used in the arrangement between the public Mexican state and law enforcement on the ground - where terror and slaughter are simply tools in implementing policy for both the police and the cartels. And he is not an outlaw or a rebel. He is the state. When he headed the state police anti-kidnapping squad in Juarez, he was also running a kidnapping ring in Juarez. When he was killing people for money in Juarez, he was sharpening his marksmanship at the Federal Police range. Now he lives in the United States as a fugitive. One cartel has a quarter million dollar contract on his head. Another cartel is trying to recruit him. He speaks as a free man and of his own free will - there are no charges against him. He is a lonely voice - no one with his background has ever come forward and talked. He is the future - there are thousands of men like him in Mexico and there will be more in other places. He is the truth no one wants to hear.

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Customer Reviews

• "Charles Bowden. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Charles Bowden was a contributing editor for GQ and Mother Jones; he also wrote for Harper's, the New York Times Book Review, and Esquire.

Ironic and sad, that I have to rate this as "excellent;" there is nothing uplifting about this book - even the subject's attempt at a sort of redemption through a return to religion can spare the reader the horrors that he committed, witnessed, or was part of. As an American citizen who formerly lived in Southern California and experienced the seemingly non-stop flood of illegals into this country, I can now fully understand the desperation that comes from the knowledge that your country is in the hands of others; that Mexico is a narco state - so saith the Sicario, and I fully agree. I am trying to think of a parallel state or country that mirrors or comes close to this book's narrative, but cannot come up with one that is as close as Mexico's 2,000 mile border with our country. I wish it were fiction, but everyday headlines as well as this man's story runs counter to any fiction. Get it and read it and try to come to terms with the reality of Mexico - through this man's eyes.

Such great possibilities existed for this book. However Ms. Molloy and Mr. Bowden took the path of least work to produce little more than a translated transcription of the Sicario's story. No effort whatsoever is spent on editing or researching the context or the story. A truly lazy piece of literature that could have been magnificent had they been willing to do a proper research and editing. It's so poorly done that it is truly that in spite of good content provided by their subject, because of their laziness, it is very hard to recommend the book to others. What this book is: an extremely interesting and honest rambling monologue with pointless and poorly drawn sketches from a hotel room pad with portions often scribbled out. It is repetitious in parts--clearly showing it was captured over several sittings rather than all at once. It is consistent, as if the speaker has thought quite a lot about the story and told it many, many times. What is clearly the best thing is that (this monologue contains

the story of a true sicario who has killed and tortured hundreds of people, in trade for for money and without remorse. And though he is repentant now, he is very honest that at the time, torture and murder came easily to him. And though, in retrospect, he sees how circumstances helped play a role (kill or be killed, chronic drug/alcohol use, government corruption), he made choices that led him to become a cold blooded killer instead of an upstanding member of his society.

I live in New Mexico and have been to Juarez many times. I quit going around 2007 when it became apparent that the danger level was at an alarming level. It was the most dangerous city in the world at one point. This man, El Sicario, was submerged in the depths of the violence brought upon the citizens of Juarez by the drug cartels. It's a heartbreaking story. So many have died and so many still suffer. El Sicario sought salvation and lived to tell his story. Some strides have been made against the cartels by the Mexican government the past couple of years. I don't know if anybody can say the tide has turned yet, but the people of our neighboring country are fighting to take back control of various regions. Juarez included.

Very interesting an detailed account on how the Mexican cartels have infiltrated the police army and government. Would have given more stars but towards the end book kind of went every direction from becoming a born again to Christian felt it did not wrap the story up an left many unanswered questions but perhaps that is where Mexico is at its future uncertain. Would recommend this book

In many ways I wish I hadn't read it because it's so brutally true and I live in Mexico. Everything I imagined as a worse-case scenario concerning corruption, etc. is happening. Read this book and find out how exactly all the deeply-imbedded corruption and crime occurs.

Perhaps the documentary was good but the book was not a very good read. The only thing I learned from the book was the total corruption and control the narcos have in Mexico.

scary true story. Drug business has enough much money to corrupt anyone and it does.

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