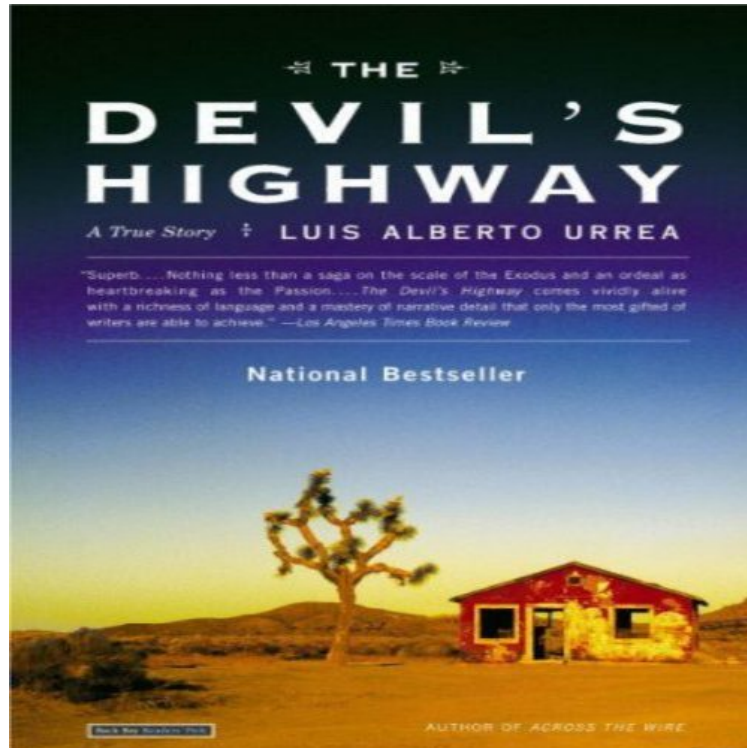


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The Devil's Highway: A True Story

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Luis Alberto Urrea : The Devil's Highway: A True Story before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Devil's Highway: A True Story:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good bit a bit ramblingBy KenpI was so stoked to read this book. I wanted to read a non political. Took about the Mexican border. This was it. Well written but a little too rambling for my taste, it was less of a story and more IFA report. All in all I still enjoyed it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Hard to takeBy Patricia C. JenkinsI had a hard time getting past the first few chapters. It was writing style in which I wasn't understanding. I was glad I stuck with it however, it is a story that needs to be told. I would hope people would be smart enough to not go walking in the desert.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Anyone interested in a better understanding of immigration issues should read this bookBy Lyle RomerAnyone interested in a better understanding of immigration issues should read this book. The vast majority of people trying to come to the US from Mexico and South and Central America are not rapists and criminals, they are, like the people whose struggle to come here is told in this book are trying to provide for their families. Unfortunately there are many who will take advantage of their dream of a better life and, sadly, that often results in death.

In a new 10th anniversary edition: "The single most compelling, lucid, and lyrical contemporary account of the absurdity of U.S. border policy" (The Atlantic). In May 2001, a group of men attempted to cross the Mexican border into the desert of southern Arizona, through the deadliest region of the continent, the "Devil's Highway." Three years

later, Luis Alberto Urrea wrote about what happened to them. The result was a national bestseller, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, a "book of the year" in multiple newspapers, and a work proclaimed as a modern American classic.

From Publishers Weekly In May 2001, 26 Mexican men scrambled across the border and into an area of the Arizona desert known as the Devil's Highway. Only 12 made it safely across. American Book Award-winning writer and poet Urrea (*Across the Wire*; *Six Kinds of Sky*; etc.), who was born in Tijuana and now lives outside Chicago, tracks the paths those men took from their home state of Veracruz all the way norte. Their enemies were many: the U.S. Border Patrol ("La Migra"); gung-ho gringo vigilantes bent on taking the law into their own hands; the Mexican Federales; rattlesnakes; severe hypothermia and the remorseless sun, a "110 degree nightmare" that dried their bodies and pounded their brains. In artful yet uncomplicated prose, Urrea captivantly tells how a dozen men squeezed by to safety, and how 14 others—whom the media labeled the Yuma 14—did not. But while many point to the group's smugglers (known as coyotes) as the prime villains of the tragedy, Urrea unloads on, in the words of one Mexican consul, "the politics of stupidity that rules both sides of the border." Mexican and U.S. border policy is backward, Urrea finds, and it does little to stem the flow of immigrants. Since the policy results in Mexicans making the crossing in increasingly forbidding areas, it contributes to the conditions that kill those who attempt it. Confident and full of righteous rage, Urrea's story is a well-crafted mélange of first-person testimony, geographic history, cultural and economic analysis, poetry and an indictment of immigration policy. It may not directly influence the forces behind the U.S.'s southern border travesties, but it does give names and identities to the faceless and maligned "wetbacks" and "pollos," and highlights the brutality and unsustainable nature of the many walls separating the two countries. Maps not seen by PW. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist So many illegal immigrants die in the desert Southwest of the U.S. that only notorious catastrophes make headlines. Urrea reconstructs one such incident in the Sonoran Desert, the ordeal of sun and thirst of two dozen men in May 2001, half of whom suffered excruciating deaths. They came from Vera Cruz; their so-called guide came from Guadalajara. Jesus Lopez Ramos was no master of orienteering, however, just an expendable bottom-feeder in the border's human-smuggling racket. Tracing their lives and the routes to the border, Urrea adopts a slangy, surreal style in which the desert landscape shimmers and distorts, while in desiccated border settlements criminals, officials, and vigilantes patrol for human cargo such as the men from Vera Cruz. The imaginative license Urrea takes, paralleling the laconic facts of the case that he incorporates into his narrative, produces a powerful, almost diabolical impression of the disaster and the exploitative conditions at the border. Urrea shows immigration policy on the human level. Gilbert Taylor Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved. About the Author Luis Alberto Urrea is the author of several award-winning books inc. *The Hummingbird's Daughter* and *Into the Beautiful North*. His many prizes include an Edgar and he's also the recipient of a citation of excellence from the American Library Association. He is a member of the Latino Literary Hall of Fame