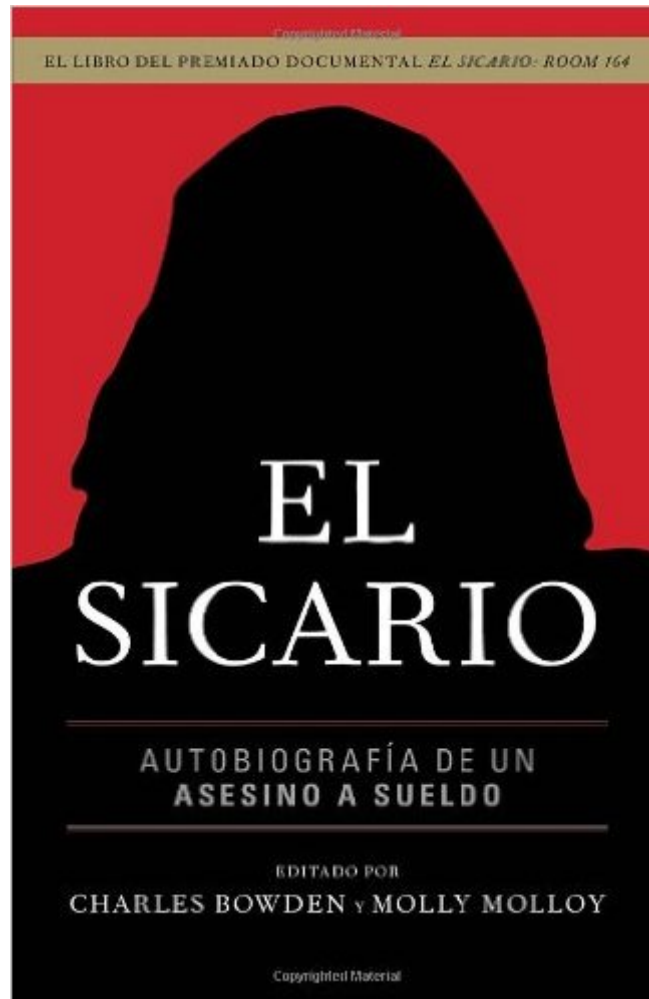


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El Sicario: Autobiografía De Un Asesino A Sueldo (Spanish Edition)



Synopsis

• "Charles Bowden. Editado por dos de los más respetados escritores sobre el crimen y la violencia en México, El sicario es el testimonio de un asesino a sueldo que, afincado en el sangriento teatro del narcotráfico mexicano, secuestra, tortura y asesina durante más de veinte años. Después de alejarse de tan terrible oficio y de entregarse a la religión, decidió contar su historia. El monólogo que emerge en estas páginas, estremecedor y sin precedentes, da voz a la violenta realidad que consume al país. Esta confesión está motivada sólo por su negación a convertirse en una estadística más en el fracaso de México. En este libro, el sicario no sólo describe la tortura y el asesinato: deja al descubierto la corrupción total del Estado mexicano. En su mundo, el terror y la masacre son simples herramientas tanto para los cárteles como para la policía mexicana. Hoy vive en Estados Unidos como fugitivo. Un cártel ofrece 250 mil dólares por su cabeza. Otro lo busca incesantemente para reclutarlo. Habla como hombre libre y por voluntad propia: no existen cargos contra él ni en Estados Unidos ni en México. Es una voz solitaria. Hay miles como él en México y habrá más en otros lugares, pero nadie con sus antecedentes ha dado hasta ahora un paso al frente para contarlo todo. Él es la verdad que nadie quiere oír, la cara escondida de la guerra contra el narcotráfico.

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Customer Reviews

"El Sicario" gives us a voice reaching out from the violent landscape of modern Mexico. This is an

unforgettable account of one man's life as an assassin, a predator for the cartels which have turned some of Mexico's border areas into war zones, and in his life we see the development and evolution of today's Mexico roughly from the 1980s to the present. There have been some good books recently published on the current drug war raging in our neighbor across the Rio Grande, including John Givler's recent "To Die In Mexico" and especially "Murder City" by Charles Bowden, who interviewed the former assassin for a documentary and edited their conversations into this book, this is one of the best because instead of just statistics and figures, it gives us a pure form of journalism in the form of one man's testimony. "El Sicario" is a raw trip into the heart of darkness. The Sicario divides his life into three basic sections: His childhood, his introduction to the cartel lifestyle as a young adult and finally his eventual exit from the cartel world, choosing to convert to Pentacostal Christianity of the variety so popular among Hispanic communities. There is a strange elegance to the way the Sicario guides us through each section, there is no attempt here to be flashy or "literary" and yet the words in their raw form have real power and pull. Unlike the flashy tales one gets in gangster movies like "Scarface," the Sicario's tale begins with humble roots in the typical, poverty-ridden surroundings of working class Mexicans, he describes his family and a father who worked to death to barely provide essentials. In a powerful moment the Sicario describes his one happy memory of a family outing: To the circus where they couldn't afford luxury snacks.

This book is the paper version of a dialogue conducted by the Italian documentary film maker, Gianfranco Rossi. My understanding of how Mr. Rossi became engaged in this effort was that border writer, Charles Bowden, who has written before about life on the American-Mexican Border, worked with Professor Molly Melloy, New Mexico State University, in Las Cruces, New Mexico, to debrief "el sicario," on his involvement over 20 years time in the killing of numerous individuals who came up on the wrong side of the Juarez Cartel. Of key interest to me were the roots of corrupt Mexican police law enforcement practices as enveloped by various drug cartel leadership in Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. Living roughly 70 miles north of Palomas, Chihuahua, and about 100 miles west of Juarez, I've seen the change in the Mexican Border towns & cities over the last 9.5 years that I've lived in New Mexico. Until 2007, going to Mexico seemed pretty easy, although I had very significant prejudices against such travel because of the "flim flam/shady" nature of Mexican law enforcement. In the first 5 years I lived here, the flim flammings were essentially shaking down Americans on put up charges of some kind designed to shake down the tourists for some kind of bribe or payment to "not get into trouble." I'd been to Mexico, to the surrender site of Geronimo, the Apache warrior, in 2007. At that time, we heard that a major fire fight had occurred

farther west in Cananea, Sonora. The reason for that fight was a turf battle between drug cartels. That seemed to exemplify the situation in Mexico in 2007. Since then, however, the slaughter in Chihuahua, Sonora, Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, Coahuila, and various other Mexican states has escalated into a horror show exemplified by decapitations & dismemberment of bodies.

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