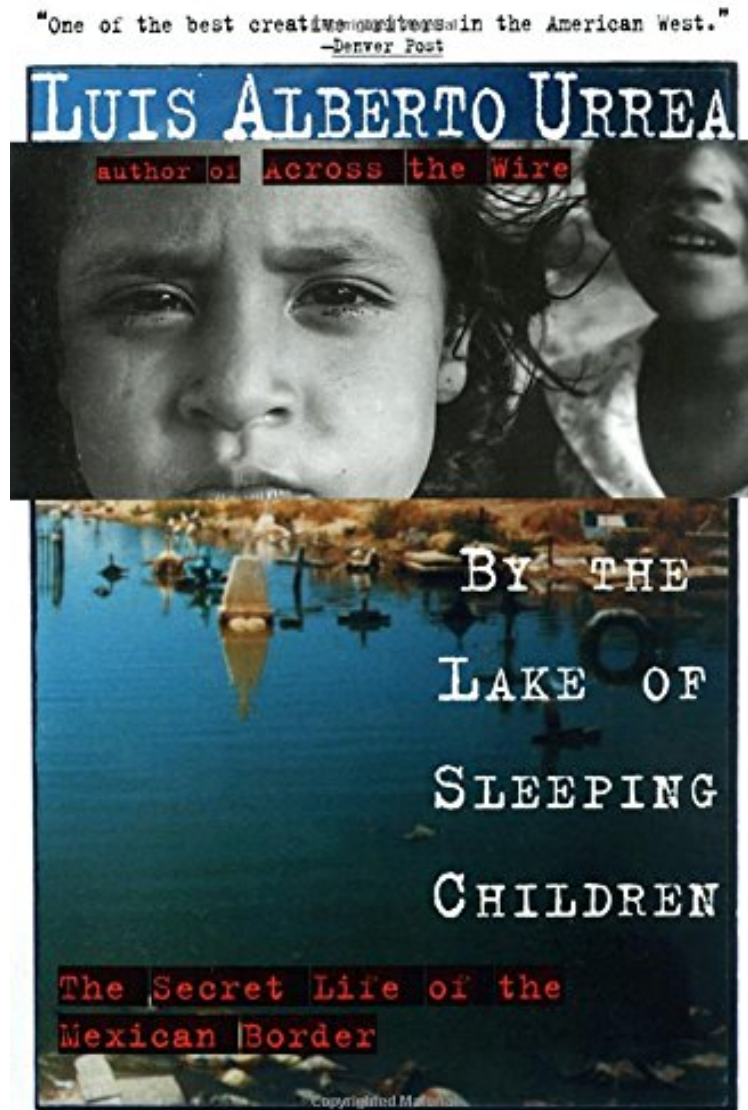


[E-BOOK] By the Lake of Sleeping Children: The Secret Life of the Mexican Border

## By the Lake of Sleeping Children: The Secret Life of the Mexican Border

Luis Urrea

ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#619337 in Books 1996-09-01 1996-09-01 Ingredients: Example Ingredients Original language: English PDF #1 8.00 x .40 x 5.20l, .41 #File Name: 0385484194208 pages | File size: 37.Mb

**Luis Urrea : By the Lake of Sleeping Children: The Secret Life of the Mexican Border** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised By the Lake of Sleeping Children: The Secret Life of the Mexican Border:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. MUST skip the horrible chapter about the bald monkey (and the goat---same chapter).By LPThis book is impossible to put down once you start reading it. It's an easy-to-read,

graphically descriptive, non-fiction account of the lives of poor men, women, and kids along the Mexican side of the border, and their enormously hard struggle to survive from one day to the next, and how difficult it is for them to take care of themselves and / or their families. It tells about the appalling conditions and lives of the orphans, and the tough but brave people who try to help them, and the misguided efforts of some of those people. In fascinating detail, it describes the daily lives and events of the trash-pickers. The information in this book is told in chapter format. Each chapter has a black-and-white photo (although the photos are not exceptional or interesting, and in a couple of them, it's hard to make out the details). The tone is hugely depressing. **DO NOT READ THE CHAPTER ABOUT THE BALD MONKEY.** If you don't want nightmares, just skip right over that section. The part about Eduardo is equally distressing and pitiful. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Two Stars By M. James This book is 23 years old, totally not relevant anymore. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By I. Hollister Very powerful book, arrived promptly, thanks!

*By the Lake of Sleeping Children* explores the post-NAFTA and Proposition 187 border purgatory of garbage pickers and dump dwellers, gawking tourists, and relief workers, fearsome coyotes, and their desperate clientele. In 16 indelible portraits, Urrea illuminates the horrors and the simple joys of people trapped between the two worlds of Mexico and the United States and ignored by both. The result is a startling and memorable work of first-person reportage.

.com This novelistic portrait of Tijuana garbage pickers and dump dwellers is variously funny, sad and startling. Americans who think that they have encountered real poverty in the south Bronx will be in for a shock when they read this book. And yet this is not a story of desperation. Urrea (born of a Mexican father and an American mother) does not ask pity for his subjects. Neither does he repeat childish political slogans about inequality (except to make them sound silly). Rather, he reveals the fascinating lives of resourceful Mexicans living along the border. From Publishers Weekly Urrea has an almost evangelical zeal to communicate the sad lot of Mexico's "untouchable class," a border population abandoned by their country, at times by their own kin. This collection of reportage, like his *Across the Wire*, originates in Urrea's years helping California missionaries deliver food and medicine to orphanages and inhabitants of a moldering garbage dump near Tijuana. Here, people's lives are wholly delimited by this universe of decomposing waste. They mine their livelihood in hidden treasures—a can of food, cast-off clothing, scrap wood for a house. Passions fester and erupt; nobility and sacrifice coexist with greed, cruelty and rage. A dual government of armed toughs and community respect prevails. In 10 stark, intimate, riveting essays, Urrea passes no judgment, but attempts to show why his subjects risk all for the chance of something better across the border. Their privation provokes incomprehensible acts, incomprehensible unless one has been in their situation. Urrea has shared their lives and he emerges with strong opinions on those responsible for such misery, and fears of what it forebodes for the course of America's future. Well worth reading in our age of escalating xenophobia. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Back Cover Luis Alberto Urrea's first book, *Across the Wire: Life and Hard Times on the Mexican Border*, was a haunting and unprecedented look at what life is like for those living on the Mexican side of the border, eking out only the barest of lives not far from the white sands and coral reefs of Southern California. His poignant, widely acclaimed account of the struggle of these people to survive amid the abject poverty, unsanitary living conditions, and legal and political chaos that reign in the Mexican borderlands vividly illustrated why so many are forced to make the treacherous and illegal journey "across the wire" into the United States. Written with the same unflagging curiosity, compassion, mordant wit, and novelistic sense of detail that made *Across the Wire* "a work of investigative reporting that is also a bittersweet song of human anguish" (Los Angeles Times), *By the Lake of Sleeping Children* explores the post-NAFTA and Proposition 187 border purgatory of garbage pickers and dump dwellers, gawking tourists and relief workers, fearsome coyotes and their desperate clientele. In sixteen indelible portraits, Urrea illuminates the horrors and the simple joys of people trapped between the two worlds of Mexico and the United States - and ignored by both. The result is a startling and memorable work of first-person reportage.