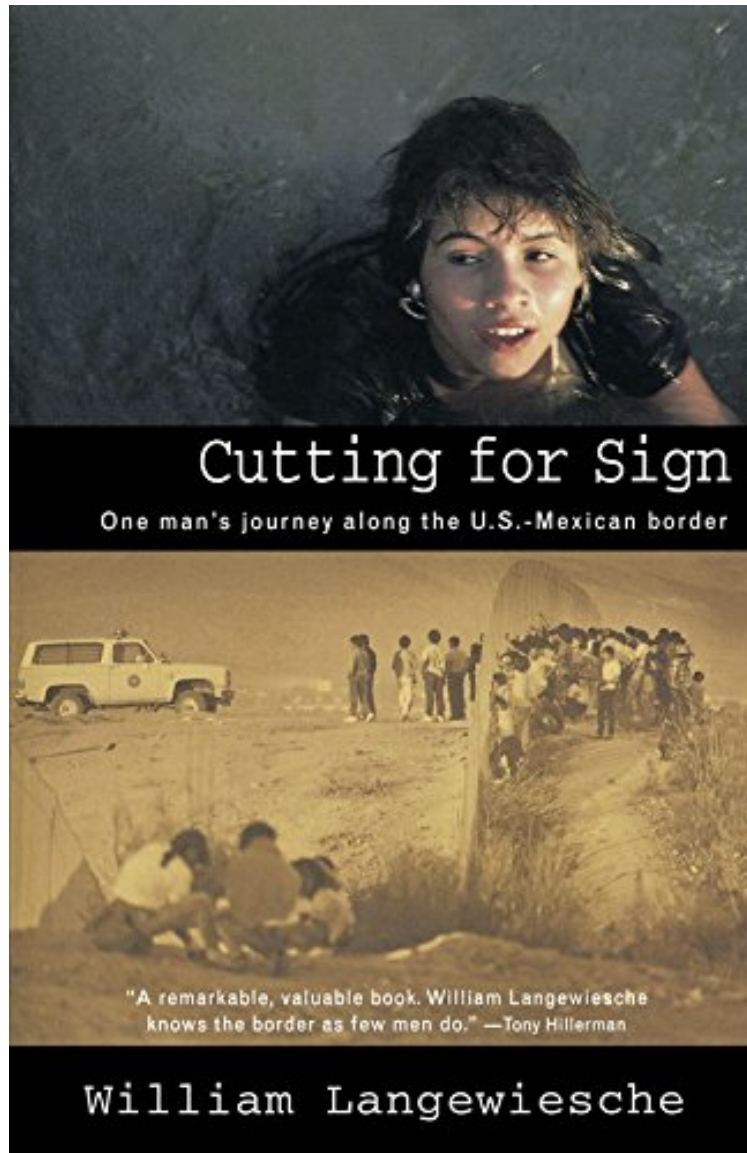


[Pdf free] Cutting for Sign: One Man's Journey Along the U.S.-Mexican Border

Cutting for Sign: One Man's Journey Along the U.S.-Mexican Border

William Langewiesche
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#1868699 in Books William Langewiesche 1995-05-30 1995-05-30 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .75 x 5.50l, .75 #File Name: 0679759638256 pages Cutting for Sign | File size: 69.Mb

William Langewiesche : Cutting for Sign: One Man's Journey Along the U.S.-Mexican Border before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cutting for Sign: One Man's Journey Along the U.S.-Mexican Border:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Overview from 1993 By Sandi Kay Wheatley Since this was

written in 1993, the further deterioration of America's safety and of our will and ability to secure our borders has slid even further into chaos so its a big outdated. It is interesting to see what those like Langewiesche recognized early was coming when many Americans were just waking up to our government's ineptitude and indifference. He writes gracefully and untangles some complex situations. I felt his interviews with border-jumpers in the US as well as with Mexican workers were honest and well-intentioned. While it doesn't begin to cover the implications of our lazy approach to maintaining America's standards it does give a really good picture of the misery inflicted on many by our ability to turn our heads as long as the illegal labor will work cheap enough and stay out of our own personal sight.³² of 34 people found the following review helpful. Highly descriptive of my personal experiences in Marfa, TXBy bglkcty@wcc.netAs a former City Manager of Marfa, Texas, I have observed and experienced first hand many of the incidents described in the book. For instance, the morning gathering of area ranchers at the former Thunderbird Restaurant, totally devoid of Hispanic participants; the persistent overtones of bigotry among many of the well established Anglo citizens;and, there are still semblances of the old "Patron" system alive and well.While I can't prove that my dismissal from my position as City Manager was based on the fact that I am Hispanic, I have no doubt that the racial aspect played a part in the decision to terminate my services. Many local residents have told me that the Mayor could not stand a smart well-educated Mexican making him look bad.In any event, the description of Marfa and the region surrounding it are all surprising accurate. The author most certainly has a deep sense of morality, and an uncanny method of lucidly describing people, situations, and injustices.17 of 18 people found the following review helpful. This man knows of what he speaksBy A CustomerI grew up on the Mexican border, and Langewiesche beautifully captures the schizophrenic love/hate relationship entangling the two sides. He writes with the clean, precise lines of the journalist, but gives the end result a spin of philosophy that could only come from really feeling the people and places he visits. Much like his second work, "Sahara Unveiled", this is much more than reportage. It's too bad not more people have read this book...I think it would greatly help Americans' understanding of border relations.

The border between the United States and Mexico extends 1,951 miles. Among the people who live along it are a migrant laborer huddled in a makeshift camp, a Chicano cowpuncher, a Pima Indian who makes his living tracking drug smugglers across the desert, and the millions crowded along the border in Mexicali. In this beautifully written, unerringly insightful book, William Langewiesche allows us to see this boundary in all its political, moral, and emotional complexity. Whether he is patrolling the border with officers of the U.S. Immigration Service or talking with the desperate men and women who cross it every day, Langewiesche is always engaged in what trackers call cutting the sign reading the marks that human beings have made on this contested land and decoding the meaning they hold for the rest of us. Spellbinding. . . . The reportage [is] high art . . . for Langewiesche painstakingly uncovers the connections between elusive clues as he searches out the border and its people.Boston Globe

From Publishers WeeklyCombining trenchant observations with an understated style, Langewiesche, a correspondent for the Atlantic , limns people and places on the troubled U.S.-Mexico border. Traveling from affluent San Diego, Calif., to poverty-ridden Brownsville, Tex., the author zig-zags across the frontier, describing border guards and human rights monitors, maquila managers (business technicians) and labor organizers and the frustration and foreboding among them all. In the ranching town of Marfa, Tex., he describes the long-running power struggle between Anglos and Mexicans and the position of an outsider, famed sculptor Donald Judd, who has established a nonprofit foundation and provides medical benefits for Mexican laborers: the ranchers consider him a subversive; the Mexicans call him a fool. In Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Langewiesche finds "one tough border town," corrupted by drugs. The book's title comes from customs agents who "cut for sign," looking for evidence (a tire track, a footprint) of illegal entry. They may be skilled, but, as the author observes: "There are 400 million crossings of the border every year, and the future belongs to free trade." The border, he concludes, is a "word game" and "more intricate than a simple boundary line." Mexico's problems, he notes, have become ours. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalLangewiesche has lived and worked near the U.S.-Mexico border and wrote an extensive piece on the topic for the Atlantic in 1992. This book expands on his experiences in cities such as San Diego, Tijuana, Nogales, Mexicali, and El Paso, as well as in rural areas. He meets ranchers, farmers, Border Patrol agents, civil rights activists, artists, and many others from both countries. He also provides some historical background on relations between the United States and Mexico, from the Mexican Revolution to the drug trade. Although a less intimate account than Luis Urrea's *Across the Wire* (LJ 1/93), this well-written volume is a thoughtful introduction to the complex people and issues of the borderlands. Recommended. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 9/15/93.- Gwen Gregory, U.S. Courts Lib., PhoenixCopyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistLangewiesche, a correspondent for the Atlantic, has written an electrifying travelogue about the territory surrounding the U.S.-Mexican border, a region that contains 15 sets of twin cities and some seven million people. Embracing the rough edges of both countries, this is wild and pitiless land and the site of an impossible battle that pits the protectionist laws of one nation against the dire economic needs of the other. No one really knows how many Mexicans have crossed the border into the U.S., but evidence backs up Langewiesche's claim that "everyone who persists eventually manages to enter the

United States," and there may well be millions of "everyones." Langewiesche watches waves of immigrants flow over fences under the cover of darkness as the Border Patrol, absurdly outnumbered, fights back with bright lights, trucks, and helicopters, a nightmarish scene right out of an sf movie. And immigration isn't the only illegal activity; drug trafficking is just as rampant and far more lucrative. As Langewiesche visits various towns along this nearly 2,000-mile divide, he compares life on both sides of the border, talks with all kinds of people on both sides of the law, and muses on the many forms irony and tragedy take in this dangerous no-man's-land. Donna Seaman