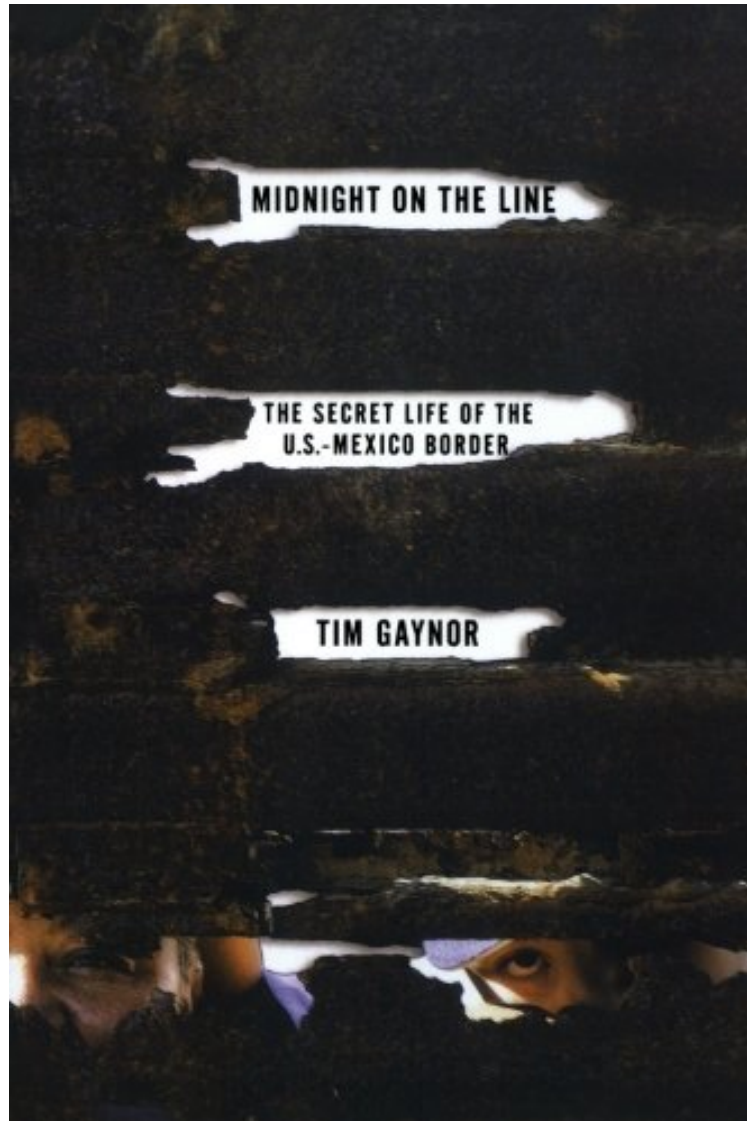


(Free download) Midnight on the Line: The Secret Life of the U.S.-Mexico Border

Midnight on the Line: The Secret Life of the U.S.-Mexico Border

Tim Gaynor

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#3588628 in Books Gaynor Tim 2009-03-17 2009-03-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 228.60 x 18.29 x 6.001, 1.04 #File Name: 1250057728320 pagesMidnight on the Line The Secret Life of the U S Mexico Border | File size: 79.Mb

Tim Gaynor : Midnight on the Line: The Secret Life of the U.S.-Mexico Border before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Midnight on the Line: The Secret Life of the U.S.-Mexico Border:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Non-fiction and timely that reads as well as a novelBy Sherry RampyI'm not generally a non-fiction reader, but this book is great. It is written by a newspaper guy who researched

and lived the life of the Mexican/ US border. I was also afraid that it would be a "here are the facts, make your own conclusion" kinda book, but Tim gives you a full perspective from many, many interesting views from so many (often opposing viewpoints). It is reminiscent of a Hemingway novel for me. I highly, highly recommend this book. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Timely fascinating topic, but without enough context -- 3.5 stars By S. McGee For what it is -- a reporter's overview of the day-to-day lives of the smugglers (of drugs, people and weapons) on the US/Mexico border and the law enforcement personnel (chiefly those in the United States -- this is a good book. And anyone who wants a solid overview of what life is like trying to work "the line" at the San Diego border crossings with a K-9 unit, patrolling the border in a helicopter or investigating corrupt immigration cops, will get a solid overview. The problem is that such a timely, controversial and crucial issue cries out for a more comprehensive, analytical and thoughtful treatment. It's not that there is anything amiss with what is here -- it's lively, intriguing, thought-provoking and rich in first-hand detail. But it simply doesn't go far enough; it's like reading a series of long newspaper articles on different aspects of the question, none of which ever drill deeply enough beneath the surface for the reader to form their own thoughts or opinions. Gaynor is clear that his goal isn't to address issues of immigration policy. But failing to do so makes the book far too lightweight. Nor does he provide enough historical context for those who aren't already familiar with border issues. Anyone looking here for a clue as to when illegal immigration across the southern border of the US became such a hot potato issue will look in vain. Was it in the 1970s, when the economy went down the drain, and jobs became so scarce? There's no clue. Similarly, although Gaynor is obviously familiar with the provinces of origin of the migrants he encounters in his research, he never shares much of that knowledge with us, beyond noting that a certain province is poverty-stricken, or a handful of details of a particular migrant's life. Surely, understanding more of the context in which would-be migrants live would show more clearly than anything else the reason why they are so desperate to walk for a week across the Sonoran desert, risking death? Indeed, the focus is so heavily on the US side of the law enforcement side of things that I kept wondering what was happening to Mexican law enforcement, which emerged only intermittently in Gaynor's narrative. I know from following news developments that there is a massive corruption problem, and that many go in daily fear of their lives. It would have been fascinating to see their daily struggle to police the border contrasted with that of their American counterparts. There is nothing inherently wrong with what is in the book -- it just doesn't do justice to the complex landscape of the US/Mexico border today. I understand that it's easier to narrow the scope of a book to something that is manageable, but sometimes that isn't a strategy that readers will find rewarding. In this case, it felt as if Gaynor had mined his reporter's notebook for the most interesting bits of his ongoing coverage of his 'beat' and fleshed out each as a separate chapter. If he'd taken the time to dig deeper, this could have been an excellent book. As it stands, by the time you read the fourth or fifth chapter devoted to policing the board, a kind of 'echo effect' sets in. The introductory chapter is an interesting one that doesn't really reflect what is going on in the book as a whole. In it, Gaynor and a colleague make the trek across the border the same way that an illegal immigrant would (although they stop and have their passports scrutinized.) After reading it, and moving on to the rest of the book, I was struck by how out of place it is in this narrative, and it ended up feeling a bit too much like a stunt: "Western reporter tries to feel what it's like to be a desperate Central American migrant!" I realize that isn't what was intended, but while it will give some readers a sense of what is involved, it's the feeling I was left with. I also ended up contrasting this, in my own mind, with an article I read a while ago (the New York Times magazine perhaps?), in which the reporter had traveled all the way to the border alongside the migrants he was writing about. The story in that case was about their sufferings and their stories, not the reporter's own. And the real test of a writer's ability to make you feel that you know the characters so well that you care what happens to them -- even in a nonfiction book. What you will get in reading this book is a serviceable, often lively and interesting survey of how various agencies go about policing the border these days. What you won't get is any historical, social, political or economic context (or very little of it). If the topic isn't already one in which a reader is passionately interested, this isn't a book that will change that, sadly enough. Which is why I have rounded my rating down to 3 stars rather than up to 4, as I typically would do. The great "Border War" chronicle, it seems has yet to be written. (Or if it has, I haven't found it yet!) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Brian A well balanced look at what takes place along the U.S. and Mexico border.

A probing, ground-level investigation of illegal immigration and the people on both sides of the battle to secure the U.S. Mexico border With illegal immigration burning as a contentious issue in American politics, Reuters reporter Tim Gaynor went into the underbelly of the border and to the heart of illegal immigration: along the 45-mile trek down the illegal alien "superhighway." Through scorpion-strewn trails with Mexican migrants and drug smugglers, he met up with a legendary group of Native American trackers called the Shadow Wolves, and traveled through the extensive network of tunnels, including the "Great Tunnel" from Tijuana to Otay Mesa, California. Along the way, Gaynor also meets Minutemen and exposes corruption among the Border Patrol agents who exchange sex or money for helping smugglers. The issue of illegal immigration has a complexity beyond any of the political rhetoric. Combining top-notch investigative journalism with a narrative style that delves into the human condition, Gaynor reveals the day-to-day realities on both sides of "the line."

From Publishers Weekly
Gaynor, a Reuters reporter who has been covering the 2,000-mile length of the U.S.-Mexico border since 2004, conjures up life on both sides in this uneven debut. He spends the first section explaining a typical migrant's trek across the Arizona border by making an aborted attempt at the journey himself. His reportage typically pits good-guy border-patrol agents against bad-guy human and drug traffickers, accounts colored by his wide-eyed admiration for the border patrol's effectiveness. He profiles coyotes, the people who lead migrants across the border and charge exorbitant rates, marveling at their ingenuity (e.g., an underground tunnel between Tijuana and Otay Mesa, Calif.). For such an able storyteller, Gaynor is disappointingly uncritical of any side of the border or immigration debate and provides little new information. Excessive attention is given to border police corruption and possible links between the border and terrorism, both low-priority issues on the list of U.S. border-policy malfunctions. It's no surprise when Gaynor concludes, "The [U.S.] government is clearly getting a better hold on the line than ever before, without having seriously challenged the wisdom of any facet of border policy." (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist
Gaynor is a Reuters reporter, living in Phoenix and specializing in immigration coverage. Here he covers both the illegal immigrant experience and the tactics used by the U.S. Border Patrol to curtail the trek from south to north by interviewing former drug smugglers, migrants, coyotes (the transporters), and border guards. He and his photographer colleague attempt, but fail to complete, a typical immigrant journey from Altar, in the Sonoran desert, to Three Points, southwest of Tucson. Gaynor describes how the drug cartels have become increasingly involved in human smuggling during their off months, employing the same brutal tactics and extortion. He details the battle for drug supremacy in Tijuana, the jewel in the crown of Mexican drug trafficking, and observes drug and human movement over the border to California by car, truck, and tunnel. He interviews Border Patrol agents, Black Hawk helicopter pilots, Minutemen, and members of the discreet Special Response Teams, including skilled Native American trackers known as the Shadow Wolves. A fascinating window into the intricacies of this complex, often over-politicized problem. --Deborah Donovan

About the Author
TIM GAYNOR is a Reuters reporter who has been on the ground in more than two dozen towns and cities along the U.S.-Mexico border from San Diego to the Gulf Coast. He works closely with the FBI, DEA, ICE, Border Patrol, Customs Border Protection, and other agencies. Gaynor was nominated for Reuters Reporter of the Year in 2007 for his immigration coverage. He lives in Phoenix, Arizona.