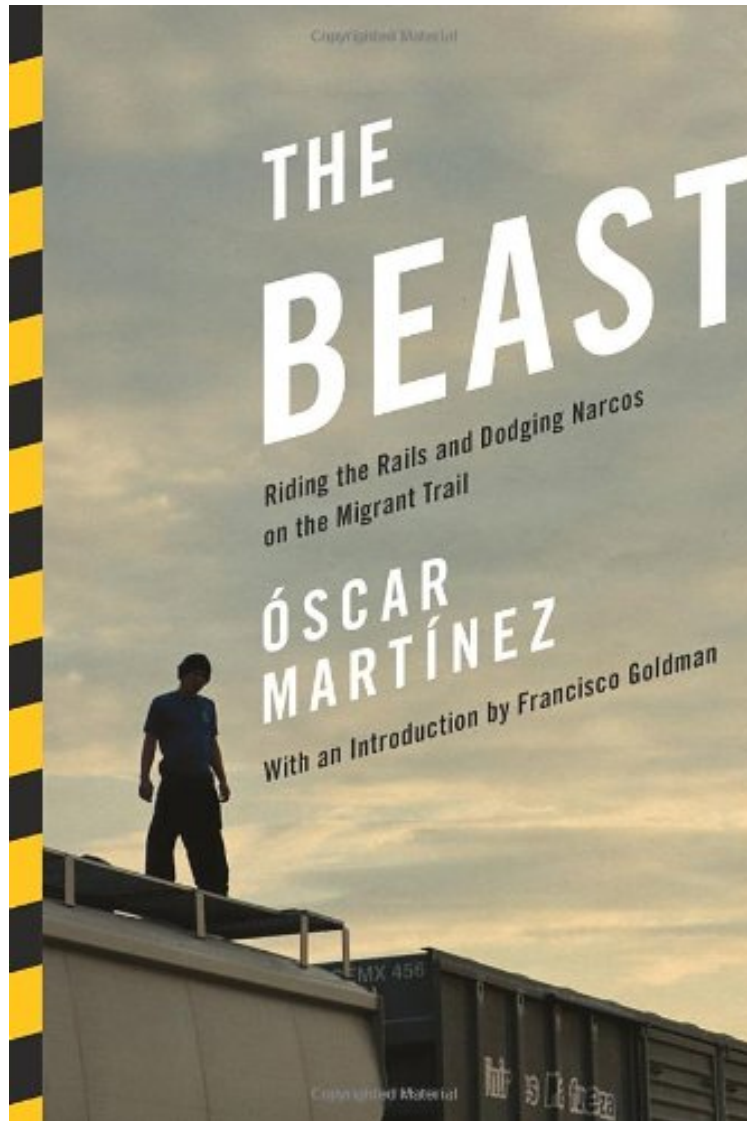


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The Beast: Riding the Rails and Dodging Narcos on the Migrant Trail

Oscar Martinez

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Oscar Martinez : The Beast: Riding the Rails and Dodging Narcos on the Migrant Trail before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Beast: Riding the Rails and Dodging Narcos on the Migrant Trail:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Extraordinary journalism, blistering writing By tea lover Best non-fiction look at a subculture since "Behind the Beautiful Forevers." Martinez was patient and courageous in his

journeys from Central America to the U.S.-Mexico border and his reward was to be let into the world of migrants, narcos, coyotes, and bandits. It's not a bleak book, though. It's written well enough that I enjoyed the journey, even if it was a horrific journey. 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A thorough exploration of the immigrant situation in Central America By M. Hubbard This is a well-written and engaging book that gives great insight into the conditions experienced by Central American immigrants during the long and dangerous journey to the United States and what they hope will be a better life. Martinez also explores the many negative impacts on Mexican society brought about by the increasing involvement of narcotics cartels in the immigration pipeline. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A very different perspective on illegal immigration to the US By Nick Bruce This book by Central American journalist Oscar Martinez relates his first hand experience of travelling on Mexico's cross country train system with immigrants from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador who are fleeing their homelands, often not for purely economic reasons but because of the drug-trade related violence perpetrated by the Mara gangs that have been extradited from the US and which have completely overwhelmed the capabilities of the police and the authorities in their own countries. The details of their terrible journeys, continually preyed upon by the coyote gangs, by the narcos and by the Mexican police are horrifying, fascinating and heart-rending and I challenge anyone to read this book without sometimes having to take a deep breath and wipe away the tears of anger and frustration that mankind is capable of treating his poorest and most vulnerable brethren in this way. With one of the leading contenders for the US presidency threatening to build a wall all the way along the border, this is a very raw, real and timely look at what has already long been happening on the other side of the border.

One day a few years ago, 300 migrants were kidnapped between the remote desert towns of Altar, Mexico, and Sasabe, Arizona. A local priest got 120 released, many with broken ankles and other marks of abuse, but the rest vanished. Oscar Martinez, a young writer from El Salvador, was in Altar soon after the abduction, and his account of the migrant disappearances is only one of the harrowing stories he garnered from two years spent traveling up and down the migrant trail from Central America and across the US border. More than a quarter of a million Central Americans make this increasingly dangerous journey each year, and each year as many as 20,000 of them are kidnapped. Martinez writes in powerful, unforgettable prose about clinging to the tops of freight trains; finding respite, work and hardship in shelters and brothels; and riding shotgun with the border patrol. Illustrated with stunning full-color photographs, *The Beast* is the first book to shed light on the harsh new reality of the migrant trail in the age of the narcotraficantes.

NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY *The Economist* *The Financial Times* Harrowing The graceful, incisive writing lifts *The Beast* from being merely an impressive feat of reportage into the realm of literature. Mr. Martinez has produced something that is an honorable successor to enduring works like George Orwell's *The Road to Wigan Pier* or Jacob Riis's *How the Other Half Lives*. *New York Times* The most extraordinary (and harrowing) book I read this year. Beautiful and searing and impossible to put down. *Junot Diaz* The world that Oscar Martinez, a Salvadoran journalist, set out to report on five years ago is so violent, depraved and hellish, you can hardly believe he survived to tell the tale... rugged prose, beautifully translated. *The Economist* Martinez is a powerful storyteller and his approach to investigative journalism is close to anthropological immersion: He walks with migrants through bloody forests, eats with them at spartan shelters, and rides with them atop speeding trains. *Columbia Journalism* *The Beast*, like so many great books, lands on you with a revelatory frisson, the arrival of a story we didn't know we were waiting to hear. *Los Angeles Times* *Books* Martinez's debut is the hard-won result of immersive journalism. *Kirkus* "This searing account of the hardships suffered by Central American migrants headed through Mexico to the United States comes from true shoe-leather reporting." *Publisher's Weekly* To understand the dramatic realities faced by the migrants who flee northwards to find work in the United States, Oscar Martinez literally jumped trains and dodged killers. He deserves praise not only for his efforts, and for what he writes about, but because he writes so very well. *Jon Lee Anderson*, staff reporter for the *New Yorker* A heartbreaking book about the world's most invisible people. A revelatory work of love and hair-raising courage. *Alma Guillermoprieto*, Latin America correspondent for the *New York Times* *Books*, author of *Dancing with Cuba* Oscar Martinez is a journalist of uncommon bravery and a writer of prodigious talent. *The Beast* is a powerful, necessary book, one of the finest pieces of journalism to emerge from Latin America in years. *Daniel Alarcón*, author of *At Night We Walk in Circles* From the Trade Paperback edition. About the Author Oscar Martinez writes for *El Faro.net*, the first online newspaper in Latin America. The original edition of his book *Los migrantes que no importan* was published in 2010 by *Icaria* and *El Faro* and a second edition by *Mexico's Sur+ Ediciones* in 2012. Martinez is currently writing chronicles and articles for *El Faro's* project, *Sala Negra*, investigating gang violence in Latin America. In 2008, Martinez won the *Fernando Bentez National Journalism Prize* in Mexico, and in 2009, he was awarded the *Human Rights Prize* at the *Jos Simón Cañas Central American University* in El Salvador.