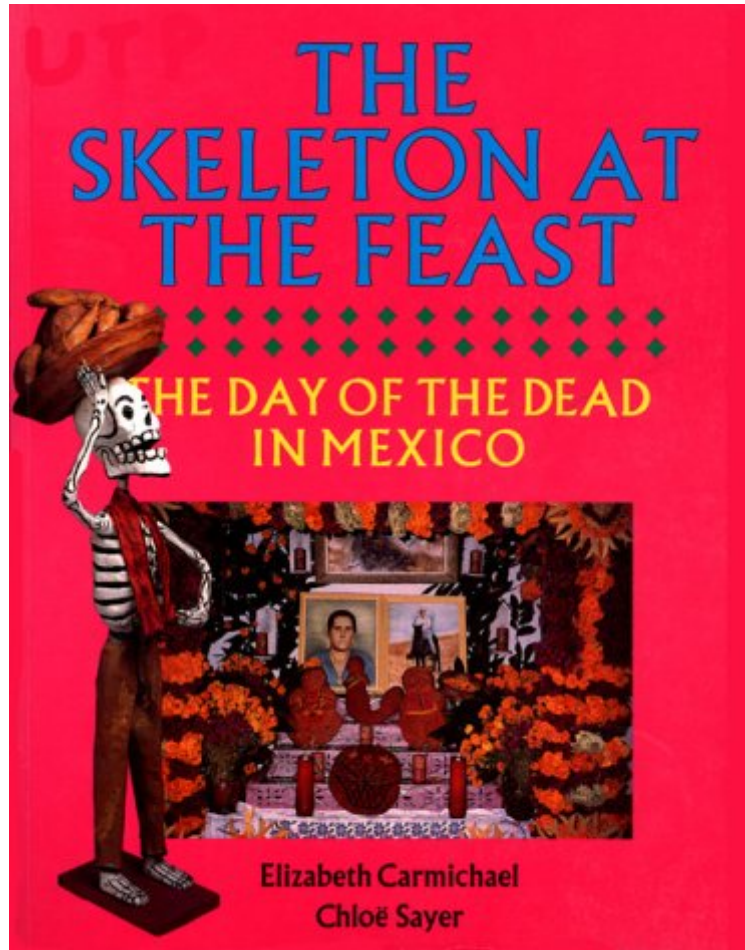


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The Skeleton at the Feast: The Day of the Dead in Mexico

Elizabeth Carmichael, Chlo Sayer

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Elizabeth Carmichael, Chlo Sayer : The Skeleton at the Feast: The Day of the Dead in Mexico before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Skeleton at the Feast: The Day of the Dead in Mexico*:

57 of 57 people found the following review helpful. a comprehensive look at a bizarre custom By John R. Foulks As an anthropologist who teaches classes on Mexico, I use this book often. The "day of the dead" in Mexico exemplifies, for me, the difference between the U.S. culture and that of Mexico. Just as other cultures might find our U.S. Halloween celebrations strangely at odds with normally conservative Judeo-Christian religious observance, this book illustrates clearly the almost unfathomable blending of pre-Columbian cults of death and sacrifice with Spanish-Catholic traditions. Starting with its origins in Mexico's ancient civilizations, the book discusses and illustrates this observance through modern times, and takes the reader vicariously to the areas of Mexico in which it is most enthusiastically observed. Sit down with a cup of chocolate' and some "pan de los muertos" (bread of the dead), and enjoy a book

whose topic you might have thought too morbid for your taste, but which you will probably end up finding much more compelling than repulsive. Unfortunately for me (but better for the publishing company!), I am about to order my 3rd copy of "Skeleton at the Feast"--apparently the students to whom I loan it find it too interesting to return! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not visually appealing. By XochiCompra Lots of information but the photographs are mainly poor quality black and white and the color ones aren't much better. Good for someone doing research, not for those looking for appealing, coffee table style images and information. It's a shame, since the holiday is so colorful and visually arresting. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Written more like a text book, but not dry. Very informative. By Ana This is a good book for anyone who is interested in history and traditions. It is well presented, with some photos, many not in color, but very good in providing information. It covers Mexican Traditions from as far back as they can be traced and shows where many of the things we see today originated from. It is a good source book and will aid in the understanding of the way Mexicans combine humor with religious traditions in a very respectable way.

All over Mexico, early in November, families gather to welcome the souls of the dead on their annual visit home. The smells of burning copal incense and pungent cempaschil (marigolds) mingle with the aromas of fresh bread, new clothing, sweets, and candles. One of Mexico's most important festivals since prehispanic times, the Day of the Dead is an occasion for celebrating and feasting, cleaning and decorating graves, dancing and making music. In this unique work, the authors explore both the historic origins of this holiday and its colorful present-day celebrations in Mexico and the United States. Interviews with Mexican artists and crafters who provide goods for the festival from personalized sugar skulls to gigantic papier-mâché skeletons offer a fascinating glimpse into traditional and contemporary attitudes toward death and the dead. Lavishly illustrated with color and black-and-white photographs, *The Skeleton at the Feast* will be required reading for all who are interested in Mexican culture, art, and folklore.