



Amexica: War Along the Borderline

By Ed Vulliamy

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With a New Afterword

In 2009, Ed Vulliamy traveled two thousand miles along the frontier from the Pacific coast to the Gulf of Mexico, and from Tijuana to Matamoros, a journey through a kaleidoscopic landscape of corruption and all-out civil war. He describes in revelatory detail the dreaded narco gangs; the smuggling of people, weapons, and illegal drugs; and the interrelated economies of drugs and the ruthless, systematic murder of young women in Ciudad Juarez. *Amexica* takes us far beyond today's headlines. It is a street-level portrait, by turns horrific and sublime, of a place and people in a time of war as much as of the war itself, "an impressively rendered, nightmare-inducing account" (*Kirkus Reviews*, Top 25 Books of 2010).

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This engrossing travelogue traces the fraught Mexican-American border, where the collision of affluence and poverty is mediated by an ultraviolent narco-traficante culture. Vulliamy (*Seasons in Hell*) journeys from Tijuana, where the ruthless Arellano Félix Organization cartel battles rivals, to the Atlantic coast, where the even more ruthless Zetas cartel, armed with grenades and rocket launchers, battles the Mexican army and besieges whole cities. In the middle is Juárez, the world's most violent town, an anarchy of contending cartels, street gangs, and their police and military allies, where massacres, beheadings, and grisly sex murders are routine. Vulliamy's border isn't all drugs and killings; it's also narco-corrida songs that celebrate drugs and killings, the American gun industry that feeds off drug money and enables the killings, and a presiding quasi-Catholic cult of Santíssima Muerte (holiest death). The author's take isn't entirely coherent. Sometimes the border is the problem, an artificial rupture that provokes turf battles over prime smuggling sites; sometimes, presented less persuasively, the lawless border is just a symptom of global capitalism, like the desperate illegal immigrants and exploited maquiladora workers (in foreign-owned low-wage factories along the border) he profiles. Although not especially deep, Vulliamy's is a vivid, disturbing dispatch from a very wild frontier.

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From [Booklist](#)

Journalist Vulliamy has long reported on life along the border between the U.S. and Mexico, writing about international trucking, sweatshop factories, and illegal immigration. In this compelling book, he brings together the economic and cultural factors that have led to escalating violence along the border in territory that seems not to be under the control of either government. Traveling the frontier from the Pacific coast to the Gulf of Mexico, he interviewed drug dealers, law enforcers, and ordinary citizens caught in the gory violence and material excess surrounding narco-trafficking. Glorified in narcocorrido music and American film, drug traffickers are now involved in smuggling illegal immigrants, charging taxes to coyotes and ransom to families of immigrants kidnapped once they cross the border. He chronicles startling violence from a “soupmaker” who dissolves dead bodies in lye and acid to young traffickers who worship a culture of death that combines Catholicism and pre-Columbian faiths. Vulliamy examines the tough Arizona anti-immigration law and other immigration policies that are only now beginning to recognize that narco-trafficking can no longer be seen as the problem and responsibility of Mexico alone. --Vanessa Bush

Review

“Vulliamy, with a mix of irony and pathos, writes like a latter-day Graham Greene. . . . Like all good travel writing, *Amexica* is vivid, colorful, and exotic, filled with striking vignettes and larger-than-life characters.”
?Tamar Jacoby, *The New York Times Book Review*

“Extraordinary.” ?*Vanity Fair*

“An engrossing travelogue . . . a vivid, disturbing dispatch from a very wild frontier.” ?*Publishers Weekly*

“Vulliamy paints a terrifying and authoritative portrait of violence.” ?*David Reiff, The Wall Street Journal*

“An absorbing odyssey . . . Vulliamy's reporting is faultlessly brave. . . . The scenery and characters he meets are brought alive with vividness and intensity.” ?*Alex Spillius, The Telegraph (UK)*

“The author writes lyrically, with the enticing rhythm of his sentences contrasting jarringly with the degradation of humanity found on nearly every page . . . Most of the narrative feels fresh because it is based so heavily on Vulliamy's own wanderings . . . An impressively rendered, nightmare-inducing account.”

?Kirkus Reviews

“Previously, to understand the ruthlessness, ambition and impact of today's global criminals, you needed to read Roberto Saviano's *Gomorrah* and Misha Glenny's *McMafia*. Now, you also need to read Vulliamy's *Amexica*.” ?Brian Schofield, *The Times* (UK)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rosa Tarpley:

Here thing why this particular Amexica: War Along the Borderline are different and reputable to be yours. First of all examining a book is good however it depends in the content of it which is the content is as yummy as food or not. Amexica: War Along the Borderline giving you information deeper and different ways, you can find any publication out there but there is no guide that similar with Amexica: War Along the Borderline. It gives you thrill looking at journey, its open up your current eyes about the thing this happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. It is possible to bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your technique home by train. When you are having difficulties in bringing the imprinted book maybe the form of Amexica: War Along the Borderline in e-book can be your substitute.

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Betty Dansby:

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