



SEARCH

Site Web
Yellow Pages

GO

- NEWS
- Home
- Local News
- National News
- Politics
- Weather
- Traffic Watch 32
- Sports
- Kentucky Derby
- Slideshow Central
- Video
- Entertainment
- Health Watch
- Community
- Irresistible Headlines
- Education
- Money
- Tech
- Family
- Recipes
- House and Home
- MARKETPLACE

- Local Experts
- Auto
- Dating
- Career
- Deals
- Legal Center
- Real Estate
- Travel
- Weddings
- WLKY
- Seen On 32
- Feedback 32
- Target 32
- TV Listings
- The Real Deal
- Contact WLKY
- Jobs At WLKY
- WLKY News Team
- Advertise

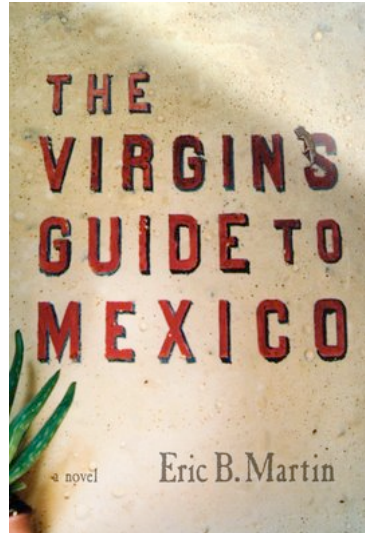
- SITE TOOLS
- Contact Us
- Desktop Alerts
- E-mail Sign Up
- Premium Weather
- RSS
- Yellow Pages



Homepage > Books

The Virgin's Guide to Mexico

POSTED: Friday, May 18, 2007



The Virgin's Guide to Mexico
 Author: Eric B. Martin
 Publisher: MacAdam/Cage
 ISBN-10: 1596922109
 ISBN-13: 978-1596922105

The Virgin's Guide to Mexico is a compelling tale of a young girl and her search for identity. Alma, a bright but homely student who is nothing like her beautiful, Mexican mother decides to take a year off after being accepted into Harvard. She plans to go to Spain but her parents don't allow it so she's stuck in Texas having to go to the local college for a year.

Alma finds some letters of her mothers from a grandfather she never knew she had that lives in Mexico. Curious as to why her mother never speaks of her life in Mexico and having that typical teenage disdain for her parents, she runs away to find her grandfather and the secrets her mother hides. Alma hopes that Mexico will welcome her. She has a vision of Mexico as something out of a dream, a warm and welcoming place. She'll find her grandfather and somehow, everything will be better.

Alma's first foray into Mexico is frightening so she heads back into the US, disguises herself as a boy and attaches herself to a group of guys heading over the border.

Through Alma's eyes we find out about the true Mexico, not the beautiful imagined dream. There are strange characters and unsavory ones, a strange old man who lives in a shack filled with beautiful paintings and the guys she hangs out with. The underbelly of Mexico is exposed with visits to whorehouses, bars and parties. Underneath the beautifully written prose is this dark hint of menace throughout. It's a little unsettling and keeps you riveted to the page.

Alma's quest alternates with that of her parent's to find her. Her beautiful mother wonders what she did wrong, while her dot com rich father is determined to find her.

Eric B. Martin weaves a multi-dimensional and emotional tale of love, secrets, misunderstandings and modern Mexico. He sheds light on the tremendous poverty and challenges facing Mexico and it's people. Martin also manages to show the shimmer of brilliance and beauty, the glory that was once Mexico and at times still is.

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Book Recommendations in fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, children and YA literature and poetry.

Literature Blogs

Fred Patten Reviews: Orwell Subverted: The CIA and the Filming of Animal Farm

From AmoxCalli - 10 hours ago
 Orwell Subverted: The CIA and the Filming of Animal Farm
 Author: Daniel J. Leab
 Publisher: The Pennsylvania State University Press
 ISBN 10: 0-271-02978-1
 ISBN 13: 978-0-271-02978-8
 George Orwell's Animal Farm, the famous allegory about... [More](#)

Andrea Learned Recommends by Rebecca

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Murder Beyond Metropolis From Lesa's Book Critiques - 22 hours ago

Lonnie Cruse's second Metropolis mystery is about family from page one. Sheriff Joe Dalton literally stumbles over a body in his niece's yard. Lucy Spanner, the elderly woman who lived a couple houses away, had been beaten at home, crawled into Mary Sue... [More](#)

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[House of Mondavi to be released June 19](#)

From Dr. Vino's wine blog - Yesterday

One week from today, Gotham (Penguin) will release House of Mondavi: The Rise and Fall of an American Wine Dynasty by Julia Flynn Siler. But if you are jonesing for a preview, you can check out Friday's Wall Street Journal, which will run an... [More](#)



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