

Midnight Cactus / by Bella Pollen

FIC POLLEN

Feeling she needs to get away for awhile from her busy London life and workaholic husband Robert, Alice Coleman resettles herself and her two kids in the Arizona desert where Robert's recently purchased a ghost town near the Mexican border. Things are hardly as easygoing as Alice expected as problems include a constant stream of illegal immigrants, vigilante border guards, drug traffickers and violent locals.

Under The Bridge: Stories From The Border / by Rosario

Sanmiguel; trans. from the Spanish by John Pluecker
FIC SANMIGUE

In this collection of short stories by author Sanmiguel, women on both sides of the Texas-Mexico border struggle to find their place in a region where identity is a fragile concept. Violence, poverty and family separation are commonplace issues among the characters, many of whom have troubling, even abusive relationships with the men in their lives yet have few other alternatives for reliance or protection.

Gun Work / by David J. Schow

FIC SCHOW

When an old army buddy phones Barney one night to ask a favor, the former marine sniper answers the call, little knowing what he's in for. Crossing the border into Mexico, Barney runs headlong into a trap set for him by a Mexican cartel. Barely escaping with his life, Barney employs all of his special skills, his bad attitude and more than a few guns to see justice done.

The Creed of Violence / by Boston Teran

FIC TERAN

In 1910, the Mexican Revolution is in full swing and arms smuggler named Rawbone is in the thick of it. A man who deals in guns as well as lives (he's also an assassin-for-hire), Rawbone lives the cutthroat life until he's caught by US authorities. When his only way out is to inform on some of his cronies, Rawbone relents and is escorted back across the border to help infiltrate a very violent world of treachery and betrayal.

Border Music / by Robert James Waller

FIC WALLER

*Waller, author of *The Bridges of Madison County*, introduces the reader to a wandering nomad named Texas Jack Carmine at just the moment when he's rescuing a stripper named Linda Lobo from her job at a seedy Minnesota bar. Jack and Linda ride off into the sunset all the way south to Jack's ranch in the Texas borderlands where life is anything but happily ever after.*

CORMAC MCCARTHY'S "BORDER TRILOGY"

All The Pretty Horses / by Cormac McCarthy

FIC MCCARTHY

This first volume in McCarthy's renowned trilogy introduces John Grady Cole who at sixteen leaves his Texas ranch following the death of his grandfather. Heading due South on horseback accompanied only by his friend Lacey and a mysterious loner, Jimmy Blevins, John endures the arid desert, forbidding climate and the contradictory Mexican culture.

The Crossing / by Cormac McCarthy

FIC MCCARTHY

Billy Parham is just a teenager when he returns home from a stint in the mountains to find his parents murdered by horse thieves. Taking things into his own hands, Billy reclaims his younger brother from the foster home and the two set out across the Mexican border on horseback, intending to retrieve the family's horses and avenge their parents' death.

Cities On The Plain / by Cormac McCarthy

FIC MCCARTHY

McCarthy's final installment in the "Border Trilogy" pairs the protagonists of the two previous novels, John Grady Cole and Billy Parham. Both cowboys at a south New Mexico ranch overlooking the Rio Grande Valley and El Paso, the pair confront life, love and the winds of change during a pivotal period in the region's history.



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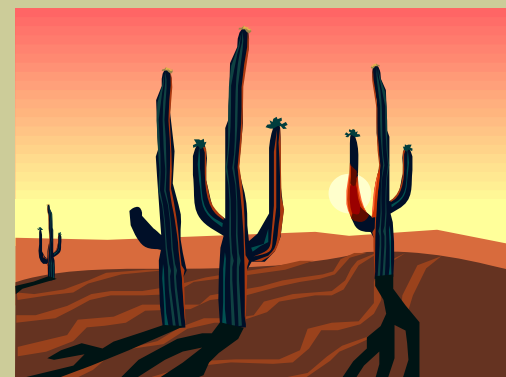
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BORDER LIT

FICTION

ABOUT LIFE ON THE US-MEXICO BORDER



FICTION

Diezmo / by Rick Bass
FIC BASS

In 1842, a small outfit of volunteer American soldiers crosses the border into Mexico for the purpose of hunting down a band of Mexican outlaws. The expedition's headstrong pursuit of its enemies soon turns deadly as the Americans become lost in the forbidding southwestern desert, are ultimately captured and then tortured beyond belief.

The Dog Fighter / by Marc Bojanowski
FIC BOJANOWS

A young man in 1940's Mexico does battle with vicious beasts, corrupt businessmen and ultimately his own soul in this enthralling novel. Upon arriving at a seaside Baja town, seeking asylum after killing a man just across the border in California, the unnamed protagonist earns his keep doing hand-to-hand combat with rabid dogs for sport.

Crossers: A Novel / by Philip Caputo
FIC CAPUTO

Devastated following the death of his wife, Gil Castle leaves his posh Manhattan surroundings for his family's ranch in Arizona. The land, which straddles the Mexican border, is definitely not as peaceful as it looks, evidenced almost immediately when Gil discovers a badly beaten, left-for-dead Mexican illegal on the property. This episode is only the beginning as Gil soon butts heads with the ruthless owner of the local drug cartel and some far worse characters.

The Guardians: A Novel / by Ana Castillo
FIC CASTILLO

A single, middle-aged woman named Regina works a low-wage job in a US public school and cares for her nephew Gabo, a boy whose mother was murdered by ruthless human traffickers called "coyotes". When Gabo's father/Regina's brother Rafa goes missing on a return trip from Mexico, Regina suspects the same band of characters who killed Gabo's mother years earlier.

Woman Hollering Creek, and Other Stories / by Sandra Cisneros
FIC CISNEROS

San Antonio native Cisneros delivers a riveting collection of stories from the point of view of young girls and women living on both sides of the Mexican border. Love, longing and youthful daydreams resonate among the author's indelible characters, all of whom share their wisdom, feelings and interior motives with the reader.

Border Crossings / by David L. Fleming
FIC FLEMING

In 1916, during a violent raid by one of Pancho Villa's lieutenants in US territory, New Mexico rancher Frank MacPherson has his property destroyed, his home ravaged and his daughter Mary kidnapped. In desperation, he appoints his long trusted foreman James Hampton and two others to cross the border into Mexico and safely retrieve the young girl.

The River Flows North: A Novel / by Graciela Limon
FIC LIMON

A small band of Mexicans seeks to cross the Sonora desert into the US and hires an escort for the purpose. Though they're facilitated with the necessary means to make it into Arizona, feelings of anxiety, suspicion and impending doom creep into the atmosphere as the party nears their destination.

Carambal: A Tale Told in Turns of the Card / by Nina Marie Martinez
FIC MARTINEZ

Plenty more is going on in Lava Landing, CA than most people know about. The small border town is home to a dormant volcano, a beauty pageant which crowns a Miss Magma each year, and some of the best sounding mariachi music ever played. It's also where two bosom buddies Natalie and Consuelo are planning a strange trip into Mexico, one which aims to cross dimensions as well as borders.

Blood Meridian / by Cormac McCarthy
FIC MCCARTHY

In one of McCarthy's staple novels, a group of bounty hunters in the 1850's track down Indians for the purpose of scalping them. The gang of ruffians, headed by a certifiably psychotic man called "The Judge", roams the area near the Texas-Mexico border killing anyone in their path, always in grisly, horrifying fashion.

No Country For Old Men / by Cormac McCarthy
FIC MCCARTHY

While hunting for antelope near the Texas-Mexico border, Llewellyn Moss comes across a mutilated band of Mexican drug traffickers, all of them dead or dying after a drug deal gone bad. Llewellyn takes the ir \$2 million loot only to be pursued by members of the Mexican cartel, DEA officials, local police and one particularly dangerous sociopath named Anton Chigurh.

Tijuana Straits: A Novel / by Kem Nunn
FIC NUNN

Sam Fahey is an ex-surfer turned ex-con now living in seclusion at the point where the US-Mexico border meets the Pacific Ocean. His lingering desire to merely be left alone comes to an end, however, when a beautiful young Mexican woman named Magdalena suddenly arrives at his doorstep, fleeing a killer hot on her trail.

Far Bright Star: A Novel / by Robert Olmstead
FIC OLMSTEAD

Napoleon Childs is an aging professional soldier in 1916 when he's sent in search of the Mexican renegade Pancho Villa. When he and his platoon of troops lose track of the elusive Pancho, they become disoriented and are attacked by a gang of marauding bandits who kill most of the party, leaving only Napoleon to die alone in the desert.

Fugitive Shoes / by Erin O'Rourke
FIC O'ROURKE

Free-spirited Sally Jasper is driving across the Arizona desert when she unavoidably hits a man with her car. Fraught with guilt, Sally plans to make amends towards the deceased man, an illegal alien, by helping to smuggle a Mexican family into the US. But her intentions soon cross paths with an uncompromising border patrol officer who interferes with her efforts.

Border Dogs: A Novel / by Karen Palmer
FIC PALMER

In San Diego near the border with Mexico, border patrolman James Reese suspects that one of his colleagues is subversively trying to damage his reputation, and possibly his life. His initial suspicions target a young man named Leo who seems to have formed an odd friendship with one Richard Serrano, an infamous "coyote" who smuggles illegals across the border.