SEX AS A POLITICAL CONDITION: A BORDER NOVEL (THE AMERICAS SERIES) BY CARLOS NICOLÁS FLORES



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About the Author

A native of El Paso, Carlos Nicolás Flores is a winner of the Chicano/Latino Literary Prize and author of a young adult novel, Our House on Hueco (TTUP, 2006). As director of the Teatro Chicano de Laredo and a former director of the South Texas Writing Project, he has long been engaged in the promotion of new writers and writing about the Mexican-American experience. He teaches English at Laredo Community College in Laredo, Texas.

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Sex as a Political Condition: A Border Novel is a raucous, hilarious journey through political dangers that come in all shapes, cup sizes, and sexual identities, a trip into the wild, sometimes outrageous world of the Texas-Mexico border and all geographical and anatomical points south.

Honoré del Castillo runs the family curio shop in the backwater border town of Escandón, Texas, and fears dying in front of his TV like some six-pack José in his barrio. Encouraged by his friend Trotsky, he becomes politically active—smuggling refugees, airlifting guns to Mexican revolutionaries, negotiating with radical Chicana lesbians—but the naked truths he faces are more often naked than true and constantly threaten to unman him. When a convoy loaded with humanitarian aid bound for Nicaragua pulls into Escandón, his journey to becoming a true revolutionary hero begins, first on Escandón's international bridge and then on the highways of Mexico. But not until both the convoy and Honoré's mortality and manhood are threatened in Guatemala does he finally confront the complications of his love for his wife and daughter, his political principles, the stench of human fear, and ultimately what it means to be a principled man in a screwed-up world.

- Sales Rank: #1222839 in Books
- Published on: 2015-07-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.20" w x 6.00" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 408 pages

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Most helpful customer reviews

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Outlandish. Offensive. On target.

By tommymac

In his second novel, Carlos Nicolás Flores tells the story of Honoré, who runs his family's curio shop in Escondón, Texas (loosely based on Laredo, Texas). Once a drug smuggler, Honoré looks for something a little more fulfilling and turns to, at times, smuggling both weapons and humanitarian aid for various revolutions in Mexico and Central America.

Packed with humor and memorable characters (think Ignatius J. Reilly on a Quixotic adventure), Flores offers a brash and blunt assessment of the unique political and cultural landscape of the borderlands, where he manages to lampoon, if not offend, virtually ever demographic group.

Insightful and intelligent, this is a terrific read – if you can check your outrage at the door.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

My first book in years

By Humberto Rodriguez

Being someone who never found interest in books, has completely changed his opinion. After reading Sex As A Political Condition, my mind has been blown away with its adventure. The book is easy to read, yet it is so well detailed to every situation the protagonist gets into. It's almost as if I felt like I was in the jungles of Guatemala.

The story is straight-forward. It's mostly about a simple man who helps a friend out (Trostsky) to deliver a convoy of huminatarian resources to Nicaragua from Escandon, Texas. The adventure Honore gets into by doing this is unforgettable. Also, the novel is hysterical, I found myself laughing because the book is that funny. "Muchas Garcias-or is it gracías?" Had me laughing for a good minute.

Carlos Nicolas Flores wrote an excellent novel. I fell in love with every character, and the book had way more than I expected.

Flores thanks for this novel. It's amazing and well written.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

You can't make mariachis without breaking a few huevos.

By Joseph E. Green

Recalling both Don Quixote by invocation and theme and also Voltaire's classic Candide in its rollicking, sometimes misanthropic humor, Sex as a Political Condition explores machismo to its illogical conclusion. In doing so, the book succeeds as a pulp adventure story as well as literature, absent the affluent pretension of a Franzen or Roth. It is revolutionary in spirit and inelegant in ethos, equal parts hilarious, offensive, and insightful; you will read some passages aloud to your friends to make them laugh, and others to piss them off. Any book that can do both is worthwhile as they come. Full review at: http://outinsa.com/don-coyote-floress-sex-as-a-political-condition/

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