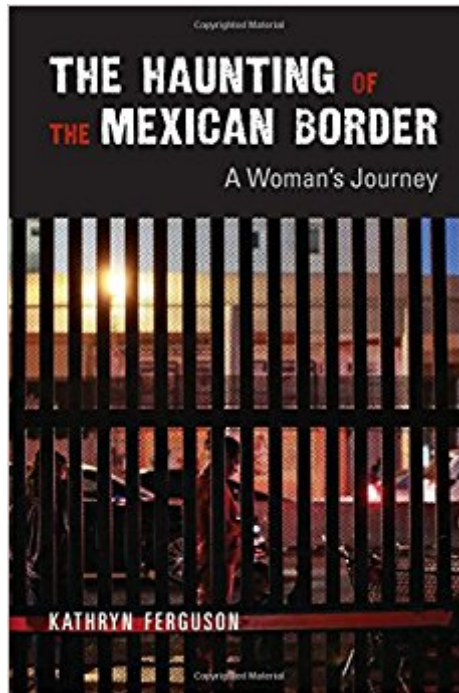




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# **The Haunting Of The Mexican Border: A Woman's Journey**



## Synopsis

The Haunting of the Mexican Border is a woman's view of the violence and generosity of the border. For fifteen years beginning in the 1980s, Kathryn Ferguson made documentary films in Mexico's Sierra Madre. As she traveled south, she encountered people who were traveling north, and she learned that the border at which they converged was deadly. Drawing on her own experiences, this book explores how US immigration policies erode the lives of ordinary citizens on both sides of the border.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The Haunting of the Mexican Border is a breathtaking work of art. Ferguson's artistry shines in her prose, polished and raw in a perfect combination, and her ability to convey the beauty and power of humanity."

"Ferguson's prose is transcendent, effortless, lifting off the page with the eye of a smart filmmaker who finds just enough detail to tell the imagination where to go but leaves off before laying on so much as to drown out that self-steering vision."

"An important account of how the [Mexican borderlands] region continues to serve as a haunting presence as well as a space whose history, stories, and art need to be more deeply appreciated and understood on the other side of the border."

"[Ferguson's] prose is marked by a deep kinetic awareness of how her physical presence as an American, a woman, and a traveler affects the migrants and indigenous tribal members she encounters during her filming

expeditions. *As a documentarian, Ferguson brings a journalistic approach to the material, providing context for the in-the-moment situations she describes, and the book itself provides useful context for the border as a whole.*

*Foreword Reviews* “Ferguson’s book is more than a memoir. It is an adventure story toughened by sore feet from walking and walking and walking steep, narrow paths.

*Albuquerque Journal* “A wise and humane account that draws on a lifetime of exploring the border country and pondering its meaning.

*Kirkus Reviews* “This is an important book at the right time. We need to read this story and understand its vision. Recommended.

*Luis Alberto Urrea, author of The Devil’s Highway: A True Story* “An unforgettable memoir that takes readers south to Rarâfâmuri country then north into Arizona’s militarized culture of terrorized immigrants and the people who stand up for them. The writing is exquisite, descriptive, action packed, and deeply meditative. The book reads like a novel; I couldn’t put it down.

*Demetria Martânez, author of Mother Tongue* “With a rare woman’s perspective, Kathryn Ferguson masterfully guides us through treacherous, hardscrabble geography and psychology where two different worlds both clash and meld. This is a must-read for anyone intending to live in and understand twenty-first-century America.

*Marc Cooper, author of Pinochet and Me: A Chilean Anti-Memoir*

A writer, filmmaker, and dancer, Kathryn Ferguson lives in Tucson, Arizona. She is a coauthor of the award-winning book *Crossing with the Virgin: Stories from the Migrant Trail*.

Of the many border-issue books that I have read in recent years, Kathryn Ferguson’s *Haunting of the Mexican Border* is one of the most rewarding. Recounting the many trips that she took between Tucson and the Sierra Madre of Sonora and Chihuahua in order to make films about the indigenous people of the region, Kathryn relates the constantly-on-the-go, frantic aspects of going back and forth across the border, trying desperately to make ends meet and to raise funds for her documentary movies. With memorable detail and vivid imagery, she conveys the beauty of the Sierra, the colorfulness and dignity of its people, and the reasons for her attachment to the region. The second half of the book relates Kathryn’s experiences as a volunteer with the Samaritans on the Arizona side of the Sonoran Desert, aiding immigrants in distress. Her personal anecdotes of being capriciously arrested by U.S. border officials, for instance, bespeak a sense of

outrage at U.S. border policies and practices. One of the great ironies of the book is that Kathryn always felt safe during her numerous trips into northern Mexico, but began to feel fear only later when she ventured into the Arizona desert. Perhaps the best aspect of this book is that it delves into important border issues in a very personal way.

The Haunting of the Mexican Border casts a spell from page one. From the moment I stepped with Kathryn Ferguson onto her storied Sierra Madre and Sonoran Desert trails I was carried along by the magic and wisdom of her deeply felt language. A brave adventuress, a struggling artist, a searcher for what truly matters; she's a guide worth following. I couldn't put this book down. Even while grieving for the changes happening to her beloved Rarimuri people, or outraged by the horrific militarization of our border and its effect on families, she manages to convey hope through the depth of her understanding. This very personal look at border issues has the power to change hearts and minds.

I just finished reading "The Haunting of the Mexican Border" and I am in tears. It is a true story written by Kathryn Ferguson about her experiences filming documentaries in Mexico as well as her experiences as a volunteer for a group called "Samaritans." I am shocked at the torment that migrants go through with border patrol agents. People need to read this book so they can stop venting misunderstandings about migration. I was deeply touched by this book.

Beautiful account of Ramuri land and life .... timely account of undocumented and their plight As someone who has visited copper canyon and lives in the southwest ... a wonderful reminder of a spectacular region

So well written that the reader sees the story as tho' it were a film Very hard to put down -- one of those books to devour carefully.

A very intriguing story by this journalist and what she went thru but very strong in her beliefs. Such a wonderful book.

First half of book was about the author's film making pursuit. Thought she could have written more about the struggles of the Mexicans and the work she did with them. She is compassionate about the people and their struggles.

This was an intriguing look at how the relations between the people of the southern most part of the western US and the northern most part of Mexico have evolved over the past 40 to 50 years.

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