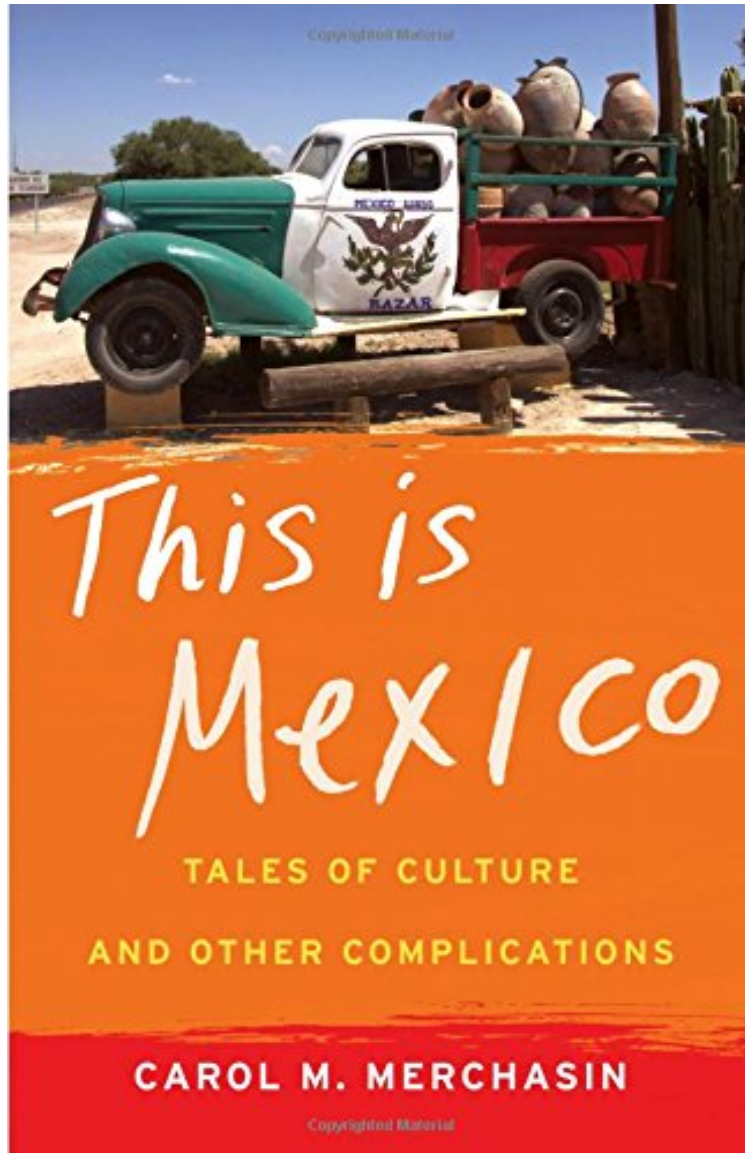


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This Is Mexico: Tales of Culture and Other Complications

Carol M. Merchasin

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Carol M. Merchasin : This Is Mexico: Tales of Culture and Other Complications before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised This Is Mexico: Tales of Culture and Other Complications:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Captures the soul of Mexico with wit and wisdomBy VagabondageAs a frequent traveler in Mexico for many years now, and a voracious reader to boot, I've read just about everything that's in print in English about Mexico, its rich culture and open-hearted people. Ranging from scholarly

histories to expat memoirs like this one, all have been worthwhile. But this is the single most enjoyable and insightful book I've discovered to date. Carol Merchasin's wry, self-deprecating humor is infectious as she takes us on her interior journey from Type A+, efficiency-obsessed gringa attorney to bemusedly contented expat who warmly celebrates the very Mexican cultural traits she once viewed as deficiencies. Being a (repressed?) gringa myself, I don't often laugh out loud at books I'm reading, but I found myself literally snorting at some anecdotes and being touched so deeply I wept at others. This book should be required reading for anyone even remotely considering moving to Mexico, as well as for gasbag politicians who consider the Mexican people "losers" and worse. For all travelers to Mexico, it is a delicious read. I was so sorry to come to the end of it a few minutes ago, I just may scroll my Kindle back to page 1 and read it again! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great fun wrapped in a great read. By Henry E. Beckmeyer I must first state that I love Mexico. It brings me joy that is delivered, daily, by its people, its culture and its history. All this despite (or inspire of) its centuries of heartache, poverty and, yes, violence. So I urge you to read Carol Merchasin's beautifully written ode to a magical place. She captures what is true and right about San Miguel and its citizens, both transplanted and native born. And, just perhaps, like me, you might wish you were there. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book. By K. Christie I assumed it would be a struggle to read - that the experience wouldn't be altogether pleasant but that I'd get the information I needed. But it's well written, genuine, and insightful. I reserve 5 stars for "desert island" books, but this book is great.

This Is Mexico is a collection of essays on the often magical and mysterious—and sometimes heartrending—workings of everyday life in Mexico, written from the perspective of an American expatriate. By turns humorous and poignant, Merchasin provides an informed look at Mexican culture and history, exploring everything from healthcare, Mexican-style, to religious rituals; from the educational role of the telenovela to the cultural subtleties of the Spanish language. Written with a clear eye for details, a warm heart for Mexico, and a lively sense of humor, *This Is Mexico* is an insider's look at the joys, sorrows, and challenges of life in this complex country.

“In her touching memoir, Carol Merchasin has captured the colors and chaos, the tastes and the trials that make up life in the city of San Miguel de Allende. In a refreshingly honest voice, Merchasin shows how weapons became fireworks and dangers morphed into kindness. She isn't afraid to show her naivety at the culture she finds, nor her surprise at how it comes to seduce her. Indeed, her candor is what makes this memoir unique. In her beguiling way, Merchasin draws us into a country open to life, and a people who opened to her, as she did to them.” —Mary Morris, author of *Nothing to Declare* “Carol Merchasin's essays about Mexico nail the people, the culture, the experience of living here, the tender relationships. Some essays are poignant, some are very funny, all of them are beautifully written and carefully crafted. I want to give this book to all my friends who wonder why I live in Mexico. The essays are accurate, nuanced, entertaining, enlightening. The writing is elegant and ranges from touching to hilarious. If you have any interest in Mexico, don't miss this book.” —Susan Page, Director, San Miguel Writers' Conference and Literary Festival “Carol Merchasin writes about San Miguel de Allende with affection and self-effacing wit, even as she mulls the contradictions and imperfections of her adopted country. *This Is Mexico* is wise and funny and true.” —Gerard Helferich, author of *Theodore Roosevelt and the Assassin* “A warm, witty and lively recounting of settling into life in San Miguel.” —Tony Cohan, author of *On Mexican Time: A New Life in San Miguel* and *Mexican Days: Journeys into the Heart of Mexico* “With writing that's as persuasive as a legal brief and as funny as your favorite relative's best stories, Carol Merchasin captures the daily confusion of living in Mexico, a country filled with local characters reminiscent of Peter Mayle's rustic French neighbors. Smart. Witty. Warm. Engaging and enlightening, this is a brilliant gem of a memoir.” —Mark Saunders, author of *Nobody Knows the Spanish I Speak* “In the good-hearted tradition of Jack Smith's classic of the gringo-in-Mexico memoir, *God and Mr. Gómez*, Carol Merchasin's *This Is Mexico* recounts a 'recovering lawyer's' adventures and many lessons in learning to live south of the border.” —C.M. Mayo, author of *Metaphysical Odyssey into the Mexican Revolution* “I am enchanted with Carol Merchasin's description of Mexico. I have lived seventy of my ninety-four years in Mexico and still wonder whether the plumber's reply to, 'When can you fix it?' ("Mañana") means day after tomorrow, next week, or call another plumber. She captures the chaos, the music, the pure joy of living here.” —Kathryn Blair, author, *In the Shadow of the Angel* “*This is Mexico: Tales of Culture and Other Complications* is one more thing to celebrate about living south of the border. Written with wit and humor, rich with insight and incident, it tells the story of one couple's journey into expat life, with all its accommodations. It is at once authoritative, yet intimate and personal, and blessed with humanity throughout. A valuable addition to the expat literature, it is dependably interesting from start to finish.” —John Scherber, author of *Living in San Miguel: The Heart of the Matter* “This is a delightful book. It made me ponder, smile, laugh out loud. Merchasin's droll take on the unfamiliar and unlikely is a tonic, and she loves Mexico, and its people, as I do.” —Alice Walker About the Author Carol M. Merchasin is a lawyer, a former partner at a large law firm, and an author involved in a longtime love affair with Mexico. She fell in love with the country's language, people, and culture during her first trip south in 1983, and she moved to San Miguel de Allende in 2005. She is a keen

observer, an experienced researcher, and an enthusiastic student of Mexican culture.