



## Tijuana Book of the Dead

*Luis Alberto Urrea*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# Tijuana Book of the Dead

*Luis Alberto Urrea*

## **Tijuana Book of the Dead** Luis Alberto Urrea

From the author of Pulitzer-nominated *The Devil's Highway* and national bestseller *The Hummingbird's Daughter* comes an exquisitely composed collection of poetry on life at the border. Weaving English and Spanish languages as fluidly as he blends cultures of the southwest, Luis Urrea offers a tour of Tijuana, spanning from Skid Row, to the suburbs of East Los Angeles, to the stunning yet deadly Mojave Desert, to Mexico and the border fence itself. Mixing lyricism and colloquial voices, mysticism and the daily grind, Urrea explores duality and the concept of blurring borders in a melting pot society.

## **Tijuana Book of the Dead Details**

Date : Published March 17th 2015 by Soft Skull Press (first published January 13th 2015)

ISBN : 9781619024823

Author : Luis Alberto Urrea

Format : Paperback 208 pages

Genre : Poetry, Fiction

 [Download Tijuana Book of the Dead ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Tijuana Book of the Dead ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Tijuana Book of the Dead Luis Alberto Urrea**

---

## From Reader Review Tijuana Book of the Dead for online ebook

### Alix says

*Bury me  
Among tired men  
Who smell too bad  
To enter banks.*

*Bury me  
Beside Women  
Old at 23  
Who stoop*

*To garbage gardens  
To pull bones  
From the ruins  
For soup.*

*Bury me  
Among children  
You have spit on  
In fields*

*Of shattered glass.  
Pick there for my name  
Like the ibis  
After mustard seeds.*

*Give me back  
To the poor.*

So much identity inside a little book. Probably one of the best poetry collections I've read in a while.

---

### David Schaafsma says

This is a fine collection of poetry, ranging from stories of the past to contemporary rages against people who see children at the border and carrying signs that read, "Not my children. Not my problem." Urrea dedicates this book "For these children we have spit on. May they rise." And the best of these poems, infused with this rage, are like white hot righteous protests against the darkness. The loss of so many children to murders in gang wars, to prostitution, to anything, are also honored, the dead and damaged memorialized here, and these poems are somewhat balanced by what seem to be somewhat older poems about his years growing up in Mexico. The book, more spiritual than political, finally, is elegantly constructed to begin with an exordium, "Ye Who seek Grace From a Distracted God" about these children and those that spit upon them. There are lamentations, there are blues poems, haiku, songs of praise, there are reminiscences about his own youth, about growing up writing poetry. The book ends with "Hymn to Vatos who will Never be in a Poem," which is wonderful, a positive embrace. The best poems for me are the white hot ones, the ones infused by that righteous rage, and the luminous book title poem, "The Tijuana Book of the Dead" which is an homage to

that town, to Mexico, to his ancestors there, to all the lost children he knew and grew up with and worked with. Bury me in Tijuana, he says. A wonderful collection with soul, calling us out to love.

---

## **Lauren says**

An exquisite collection by Luis Alberto Urrea.

There was some very heavy and disturbing material in the first couple of poems (human trafficking, abuse), and I proceeded cautiously - but many other poems are lighter in nature: landscapes, travel, and observations. The sprawling "16Lanes" details growing up, bowling alleys, and his father.

Definition

*Illegal alien, adj./n.*

A term by which

An invading colonial force

Vilifies

Indigenous cultures

By identifying them as

An invading colonial force

Majority of the poems are in English, a few in Spanish. Urrea is a superb writer and I'm looking forward to reading his novels and literary nonfiction.

---

## **Julie Sherwood says**

Tijuana Book of the Dead is incredible. The poems ranged from funny to beautiful to sad to contemplative. There's something for all tastes. I found myself rushing to "Google Translate" to understand the Spanish ones - it makes me want to learn Spanish! I'm kind of picky about poetry. Some poets are too ethereal to be coherent, but these poems have feet. They are grounded in real life and all of them give you something to think about. I would highly recommend it.

---

## **Ann says**

Just discovered this poet. Love love love this.

---

## **Linda says**

Having recently moved to Texas, I wanted to get acquainted with new poets living and/or writing about the Southwest, especially the towns bordering Mexico. I happened upon this book in the library and took it home. Let me say that I loved it. Urea's poems can make you laugh and make you cry. This collection made me want to go out and read everything else he's ever written. Thumbs up for me.

---

## Rubi says

The poetry in this collection was very diverse. The structure of the poems were unique and they altered in each individual poem. The structure often alters more than once in one poem. I felt a wide range of emotions while reading this collection: sadness, happiness, hope, and longing.

The characters/stories presented are all unique. There is Mexican imagery and American imagery. The book not only portrays what it's like to live in a border town, but it complicates the idea of a border town. It demonstrates the political tensions between Mexicans and Americans in a very straight forward, but still captures the emotions in dangerous rhetoric.

My favorite poem is the title poem, "The Tijuana Book of the Dead". As a Chicana reader, I understand the longing of wanting to return to a country/custom/religion of your ancestors.

---

## Francisco Vargas says

I'm not a big fan of the author in general but like this volume of poetry the use of Spanglish read much more fluid than his novels. much more from the heart. I'm sure these are relatos he "borrowed" from Tijuana residents but nonetheless they touching.

---

## Miriam says

*--I don't believe  
anymore, I don't believe,*

*I'm not convinced  
that the temple ever earned my heart,  
that life isn't better than this sacrifice,  
that I am a slave to be butchered,*

*that I am born to die up there like my fathers  
who built the temple with stones  
on their backs:  
I cannot believe*

*not for a minute  
that I must submit  
and only ever hope  
to leave behind me*

*this poem.*

*-from Teocalli Blues (for Santino Rivera)*

"Hymn to Vatos Who Will Never Be in a Poem" is a perfect end piece.

Soundtrack suggested by "48 Roadsongs":

Beau Jocque

Zydeco High Rollers

Caifanes

Wall of Voodoo

Concrete Blonde

Cafe Tacuba

Catherine Wheel

Love and Rockets

Maldita Vecindad

Lila Downs Tonantzin

...and crickets singing Neruda

---

## Keith says

Border poetry to memorialize the oppression of The Cartel, the last book I read. Reminiscent of Richard Brautigan. Here's part of one, most are not as dark as this.

### Siege Communiqué

In Tijuana.  
they said Juárez  
was the pueblo where old  
whores went to die, where  
25 cents bought flesh

by the river, no  
body loved you, Sister—  
so close to Tecast  
so far from  
Revolución.

Today, they say  
you are the cementerio  
of hope: the only crop  
in your garden of Río  
Grande mud is bullets,

is machetes, is  
acid baths for bones,  
choruses of prayers  
from those in torture church.  
Hermanita of Perpetual

Sorrow, what flowers  
do we hand you—we  
who die now too.

We who dangle nude  
and burned from bridges . . . .

---

### **Tara Schaafsma says**

Great poetry! The first few really moved me--made me angry, so I couldn't read them before bed. Lots of good imagery.

---

### **Jlf888 says**

Visceral, whether in English or Spanish. Too hard, at times, to face, which makes you realize you must face it.

A stanza from one of my favorites, Lines for Neruda:

The first poem I read  
was the ragged V scrawled  
in a brown sky by gulls  
escaping the garbage dump at sunset  
cutting under clouds  
over the apartment blocks  
going to a sea I knew  
was there across the city  
but never saw.

So much justice and so much gut here.

---

### **Drew says**

Great range of style and a fresh voice.

Favorite poems:

- Listen
  - Typewriter
  - 48 Roadsongs (flash poems while driving 1-70, etc)
  - Definition
- 

### **Melissa says**

Contemporary poetry is always a hard read for me - I'm one of those weirdos who actually likes rhyme schemes, poetic forms, etc - but this collection from Urrea is wonderful. Bleak, hopeful, brutal, sarcastic, truthful, and one 22page poem about a bowling alley (or his dad?). Several poems are entirely in Spanish, I was able to pick through them but I definitely missed things in those poems.

I heard echoes of things I've heard him say during interviews. Beautiful

---

### **Caroline Bock says**

In honor of National Poetry Month this April, I picked up this engrossing book of poetry at the library-- and I highly recommend it from the opening poem, "You Who See Grace from a Distracted God" about a working man or women's plight told in long, hypnotizing phrases to "Incident Report" about being a Mexican immigrant in a public library, these poems speak to now. They are about: immigrants, the dispossessed, all of us who struggle to make sense, make a living, made a life, in America. I salute this poet, not just for challenging the status quo with his work, but for the vibrancy of his language, the beauty of his words in the face of an often ugly world.

---