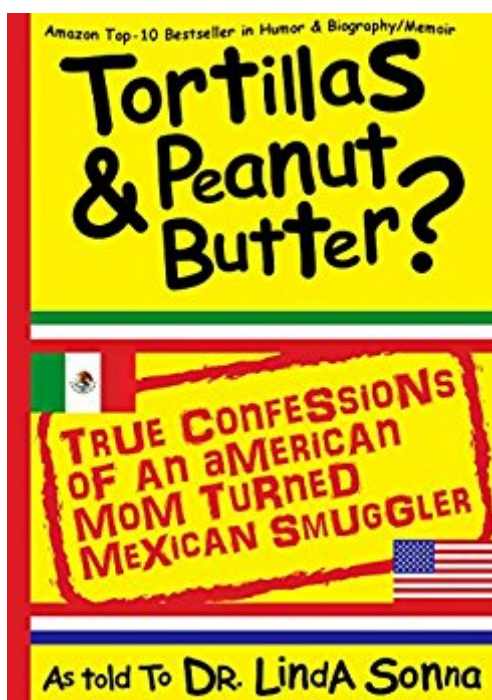


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Tortillas & Peanut Butter: True Confessions Of An American Mom Turned Mexican Smuggler



Synopsis

AN TOP-10 BESTSELLER IN HUMOR, BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR, TRAVEL MEXICO, TEEN & YOUNG ADULT BIOGRAPHIES - "Jaw-droppingly hilarious," Carol Penn-Romine, Award-Winning Author -- A wealth of cultural information tucked between the chuckles - - As the zany protagonist comes to understand Mexico & appreciate Hispanic culture, readers do the same - - 20% of profits go to the ACLU - - Includes discussion questions for book clubs & classrooms - - "One of the funniest books I have ever read!" Carol Schmidt, Author - - "Spot-on, highly entertaining, and absolutely hilarious." - Lynne Willard, Editor & U.S. expat - "Extremely well-written, honest, and delightfully funny; a must read for any foreigner living in Mexico!" - Paul Voudouris, Musician & Expat - "Holy Cow! This book is hilarious!" - Cynthia Norman, Cosmic Philosopher - "Not just a fun read but truly funny." - Dr. Terry Shaft, Professor & Mom - "Learning about a new culture can be hilarious" - as seen through this book! - Diane Gilliard, Counselor

Synopsis A suburban housewife liberates herself from her peanut-butter-and-jelly life and flees to Mexico. While battling the cultural quirks that send less adventurous souls hightailing it back to the U.S., she struggles to learn Spanish, cope with foreign customs, raise her children, and run a school. Using her wily wit and gift for gab to outfox the government officials, she smuggles U.S. merchandise to boost her income. But not all of her smuggling tricks and tactics go as planned. - Covers multicultural issues, including the women's movement & the 1960s cultural revolution, immigrant adjustment & adaptation, immigrant parenting, identity development in 1st generation children of immigrants, minority group issues (racism, sexism, prejudice), values & attitudes in individualist vs. interdependent cultures, diverse customs & mores, time orientation (past/present/future), activity mode (being/becoming/doing), social relations (hierarchical/collateral/individual), relationship to nature (fate/destiny/genetics vs. personal mastery/self-efficacy), cultural evolution & expatriate re-integration, culture shock.

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Customer Reviews

This is one of the funniest books I have ever read! I lived as an ex-pat in San Miguel de Allende for ten years, about 75 miles from the central Mexican city of Irapuato, near where Linda Sonna raised two boys into their teens, while teaching English and serving as principal and accountant for a school. She broke so many laws while doing so, with great insight into the craziness inherent in much of Mexican culture and the legal system. Expats learn fast how to deal with what seem like incomprehensible bureaucratic red tape and inconsistencies--mainly, accept, laugh, find a way around it, ignore it. Often, she resorted to bribery, but that is less common today as Mexico perpetually seeks to reform its governmental and legal systems. Sometimes, it is just more subtle--expats hire "facilitators" who negotiate such indelicacies. The subtitle, "True Confessions of an American Mom Turned Mexican Smuggler," was so accurate--just about every expat becomes a smuggler to get favorite foods and other goodies across the Mexican border from shopping trips north. Sometimes we do it in reverse. Even today my wife and I drive down to Nogales to bring home some of the foods we came to love in Mexico that rarely can be found even in supermarkets catering to Mexican-American customers in Phoenix. Her favorite meal of tortillas and peanut butter is still one of ours, too, and Mexican flour tortillas made with lard are much better than the "healthier" tortillas we find in the North. I've written two books myself on living in San Miguel de Allende, and this book made me think about writing another, about the adjustments a long-time expat makes when returning to the US. Tortillas & Peanut Butter was actually written by Dr. Linda Sonna, incorporating a first draft by her mother, Linda Sonna, who actually lived these adventures and then let the book slide. It took decades for Dr. Sonna to put all the stories together and add her own touches and make the book her own. It holds up perfectly well. Did I mention it is one of the funniest

books I ever read? I kept laughing out loud in Starbucks or anyplace else I was reading the book on Kindle, causing people around me to wonder what was so funny. I kept reading it aloud to friends whenever I started laughing around them while reading. My wife got to hear most of the book because I couldn't stop sharing the stories. Please, read this book, not just because you will learn a lot about what it was like to live as an expat in Mexico some 30 years ago, especially on what it was like to raise kids in a foreign country, but because you need lots more laughter in your life!

Tortillas & Peanut Butter is a great, fun read, but if you've ever let the word "can't" dominate your vocabulary, it's much more than that: Lois's optimism, creativity and determination to do what she needs to in the face of some pretty overwhelming odds are both inspiring and instructive. The fact that the book is jaw droppingly hilarious is just icing on an already tasty cake.

I really enjoyed the book until about halfway through it. I got really tired of everything being funny. Yes, I know the book is in "humor", I don't see the humor in your child blowing up the kitchen and almost himself. Another very irritating thing for me was the way the son, Mark spoke. To me, it sounded more Russian than from a Mexican. I tried very hard to finish the book because I live in So. AZ and was enjoying a look into rural Mexican life, couldn't do it. Maybe I will try picking it up again to see how it ends, but right now, I am tired of it. Just my humble opinion.

This book is funny! I recently read Tina Fey's 'Bossy Pants' and was a little disappointed, it wasn't all that funny. This book is funny and well written. It's written by the daughter, Dr. Linda Sonna, but told through the voice of her mother, Lois Sonna. It's the story of a mother of four who in the 1960's decides to leave her unhappy marriage and move to Mexico with her children. With very little money and no profession, she is able to make a life for herself and her children using her wits and more than a little bit of humor. I'm about half way through with the book and am really looking forward to the rest of it. Although I will hate to be done, it the kind of book I want to keep going on and on!

I met Dr. Sonna at a Halloween party in Ajijic, Mexico. She was wearing a t-shirt advertising several of her books. I was particularly interested in this one because I left Montana 2 years ago to retire in Mexico. The book gives a little idea of what it is like living here, but mostly, it is a hilarious account of a renegade mother dealing with new laws, customs and language. I like it so much I am going to order copies for Christmas gifts for my two sisters-in-law. I think they will enjoy. I think you will enjoy!

A funny story about a very resourceful American woman who leaves her husband and takes her two sons to Mexico. They confront all manner of personal and cultural issues. Her stories about "importing" goods into Mexico to supplement her meager income as a teacher/principal are hilarious.

Since tortillas with peanut butter and jam, and tortillas with peanut butter and bananas, are two of my favourite things to eat, I knew I had to read this book. It's the story of an American woman who leaves a bad marriage and makes a life in Mexico with her children. It's laugh out loud funny and at the same time a little bit sad. I fell in love with the younger son Mark, who spoke English with Spanish grammar, was bullied in school, and seemed a kind generous soul. Mark's devout Catholic phase touched my heart. All in all, a wonderful book that needs to be read by everyone.

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