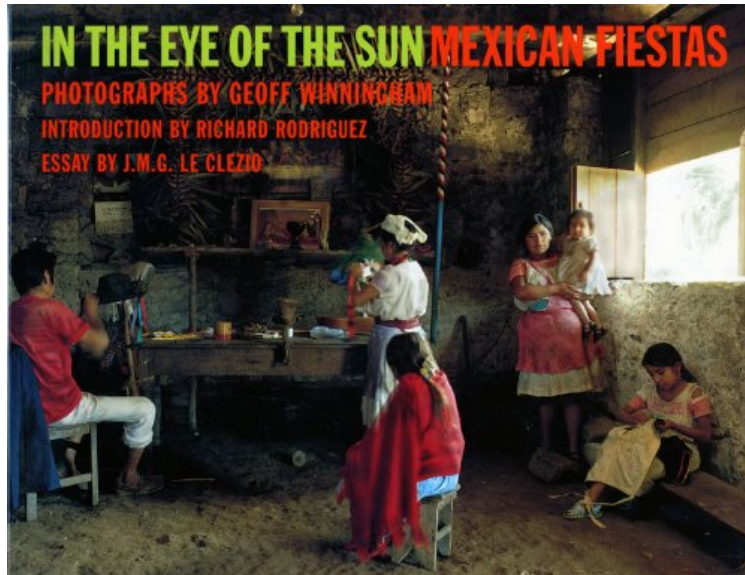


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In the Eye of the Sun: Mexican Fiestas

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From W. W. Norton Company : **In the Eye of the Sun: Mexican Fiestas** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In the Eye of the Sun: Mexican Fiestas:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. "How can words describe Mexico and its festivals?"By R. M. PetersonInadequately. Despite even the efforts of Richard Rodriguez and J.M.G. Le Clzio (who posed the above question) in their excellent introduction and essay. But Geoff Winningham's marvelous photographs bring outsiders much closer to the color, excitement, mystery, and vitality of Mexican festivals.IN THE EYE OF THE SUN is a collaboration among three noted practitioners of their crafts. Geoff Winningham is an accomplished Houston-based photographer, most of whose work is documentary in nature of life in Texas and in Mexico. Richard Rodriguez is a Latino author, born into a Mexican immigrant family, with degrees from Stanford and Columbia. J.M.G. Le Clzio won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2008.I loved Rodriguez's brief introduction. Among other things, he writes: "You must believe in Zeus or God or the gods or the Sun to have a fiesta. You must believe that the heavens and the earth are in communication with each other. Pagan Indians believed; Christian Indians still do." And of the Dia de los Muertos, Rodriguez notes one reason it is so alien to most well-heeled Americans is that "Americans don't die--they pass away into euphemism."The Day of the Dead is the best-known festival north of the border. Le Clzio, in his essays, provides brief profiles of three lesser known, rather remote festivals: the San Juan Parangaricutiro, in Michoacn, Mexico, where pilgrim Indians from all over Mexico celebrate a pagan rite of dancing before the altar of Christ in the local church; a singing ritual among the Embera Indians on the Tuequesa River in Panama; and the corn mass in Chun Pum, Quintana Roo, Mexico.The bulk of the book consists of over seventy color photographs taken by Geoff Winningham during trips to Mexico between 1984 and 1995. The subject festivals include the Day of San Miguel, the Fiesta of Santa Cruz, the Fiesta of San Francisco, and the Day of the Dead. The pictures range from preparations for the festivals to celebrations and observances in the streets, in churches, in markets, and in cemeteries -- from mock tiger fights to parades to shooting off fireworks to nighttime vigils.One really should

experience native festivals or rituals first hand. I know that from having attended and observed ritual dances among Puebloan Indians here in New Mexico. (Of the Corn Dance at Santo Domingo Pueblo, Igor Stravinsky exclaimed when he first saw it, "This is what I heard in my mind when I composed 'The Rite of Spring!'") But it is very difficult for most of us to witness native festivals, and I, unfortunately, have not been to a fiesta in Mexico. I suspect, however, that **IN THE EYE OF THE SUN** is the next-best thing. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. In the Eye of the Sun; Mexican Fiestas By Marian Hjortsberg This book of photos is complemented by a superior commentary by Nobel prize winning author J.M.G. Le Clezio. Le Clezio asks, "How can words describe Mexico and its festivals?" His question is correct; it's difficult. But, Geoff Winningham's photographs not only visually capture the fiestas in various areas of Mexico they bring with them additional dimensions of smell, dust, heat and noise. These photos come closest to capturing the 'real' Mexico as any I've ever seen. The Mexico unadorned with the patina of the modern world. 11 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Gorgeous color imagery from Mexico By A Customer This book shares the light, color, and poetry of Mexico with its readers. The photographer's passion for his subjects comes through with every photo. It is also an interesting view into the unique Mexican history of fiestas; the context of the traditions within daily life is very intriguing. I would highly recommend this book to those interested in either Mexico or color photography. It is a beautiful and sensitive work.

Geoff Winningham began photographing the popular fiestas of Mexico in 1984. Returning to the same Mexican villages several times a year, he formed personal relationships with families who permitted him to photograph them in the intimacy of their homes, and local officials who gave him special access to all phases of the celebrations. The fiestas provide tangible links to the pre-Hispanic cultures of middle America, intertwining some of the great Pagan festivals of these ancient peoples with catholic ritual and tradition. In the Eye of the Sun is a remarkable visual chronicle of Mexican life. The book also includes an introduction by Richard Rodriguez and an essay by J.M.G. Le Clezio.

From the Back Cover In The Eye Of The Sun Mexican Fiestas is an illustrated book on the preparations and rituals of Mexican fiestas. From costume preparation to wood carving and flower weaving, to animal selection and its sacrifice.