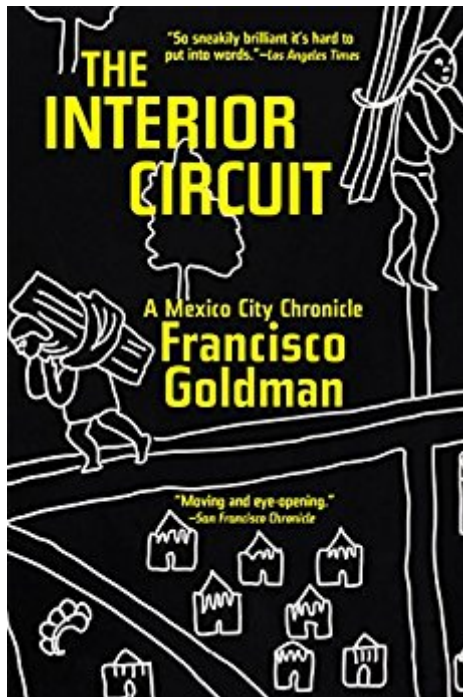


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# The Interior Circuit: A Mexico City Chronicle



## Synopsis

Coming off the most successful book of a decorated career—*Say Her Name*—The Interior Circuit is Francisco Goldman's timely and provocative journey into the heart of Mexico City. The Interior Circuit is Goldman's story of his emergence from grief five years after his wife's death, symbolized by his attempt to overcome his fear of driving in the city. Embracing the DF (Mexico City) as his home, Goldman explores and celebrates the city, which stands defiantly apart from so many of the social ills and violence wracking Mexico. This is the chronicle of an awakening, both personal and political, and to the meaning and responsibilities of home. Mexico's narco war rages on and, with the restoration of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (the PRI) to power in the summer's 2012 elections, the DF's special apartness seems threatened. In the summer of 2013, when Mexican organized crime violence and death erupts in the city in an unprecedented way, Goldman sets out to try to understand the menacing challenges the city now faces. By turns exuberant, poetic, reportorial, philosophic, and urgent, The Interior Circuit fuses a personal journey to an account of one of the world's most remarkable and often misunderstood cities.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It was certainly full of information and I loved the author's personal stories. But it felt like he was desperate to break the "bubble" of the idea of safe and comfortable Mexico City. Those who have visited or live here know it's not safe, and we know there is violence and degradation both here and in the rest of the country. We know its corrupt, we know there are divers seemingly insurmountable problems.. But we can also see its beauty, its lovable weirdness, its comforting chaos. There were small glimpses of the DF that I know in this book, but only very small ones, and I was very disappointed. I did, however, learn a lot about the city's political history, and while the author and his circle obviously run much more to the left than I, I appreciated getting to hear a different point of view.

I was expecting a sort of travel story. However, it became a riveting and well written exposition of how one's world changes when the government turns from "let's pool our money to more efficiently help us all" to seeing citizens as targets to be fleeced for individual gain. Scary! And timely!

Excellent book! I live in Mexico and I am quite informed about the situation here but this book filled in a lot of gaps. Also some eye opening info about Jamaica, Brazil, El Salvador and Honduras. Very well researched and readable!

this is a book for people familiar with Mexico City, and for them is very interesting and fascinating.

I am still reading the book and having great satisfaction. I read equally English and Spanish, so when I figured out that Goldman had written it in English, I went for it. Nevertheless, given the subject, it might read even better in Spanish, if the translation is good. That said, Goldman's writing is brilliant. His language is rich and it reads without a hiccup. A cover comment claims that it took a foreigner to write such a wonderful book on such an amazing, contradictory and fascinating city. But Goldman isn't really a foreigner, like many of us who have lived there for a long time. I'm emotionally tied to Mexico City, and drove around like any local. Granted, I learned to drive in S. America and only now, at my Golden Age, do I drive automatic. Other than the driving part (it's hard, granted and gotten worse), I can resonate with much of Goldman's experiences. I found it difficult to

understand that when he got into #somos132 for such a long part of the book (not that it isn't an essential), there were some severe editor's oversights and that he fell for Camila Vallejo's "ravishing beauty" to the extent he did. Camila is, no doubt, an important figure in Latin America's student movements, but as in many things, they are better understood with a little more distance, time-wise. And never forget a key sentence: "If you think you understand Mexican politics/social system/organization, it's because you are lacking information". Anyway, I believe it's an essential reading for anyone interested in Mexico. You won't regret it.

The Interior Circuit: A Mexico City Chronicle is essential reading for anyone who loves Mexico and Mexico City in particular. Goldman intersperses the tale of his wife's premature death and his profound loss with the history of Mexico, current politics, anecdotes of every day life and the challenges of driving in Mexico City. I loved it!!!

beautifully written.

Thorough reportage with a personal narrative focus.

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