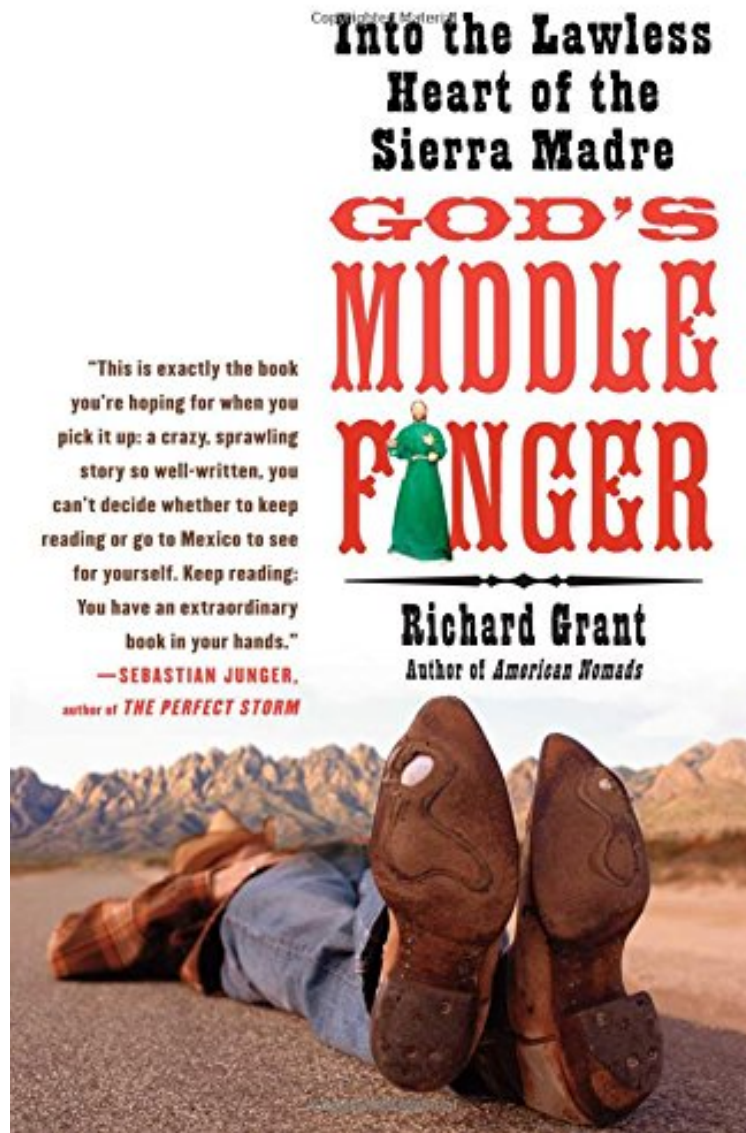


God's Middle Finger: Into the Lawless Heart of the Sierra Madre

Richard Grant

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#66639 in Books Richard Grant 2008-03-04 2008-03-04 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.44 x .80 x 5.501, .63 #File Name: 1416534407288 pages God's Middle Finger: Into the Lawless Heart of the Sierra Madre | File size: 36.Mb

Richard Grant : God's Middle Finger: Into the Lawless Heart of the Sierra Madre before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised God's Middle Finger: Into the Lawless Heart of the Sierra Madre:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great modern adventure By Humsteve My thirty-something son recommended this book to me and, at least at first, I really found it fascinating. Why someone, especially an English,

from England, someone would want to go into one of the most lawless sections of North America was one of the main reasons I wanted to read it. And the author explains that very well while he is giving background stories of the area and famous people who populated it. His adventures are true modern day great stories of wonderful people trapped into growing and selling marijuana and being surrounded by very, VERY bad guys who will get too drunk with alcohol, too high from drugs and too ego-stung with power so will shoot you with little provocation just to feed the trigger finger. Like the author, toward the end, grew tired of the macho male attitude and was glad to get out when he did. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyed Richard Grant's other books - so I bought it. By Michael Bruchas A good scary read about Mexico 10 years ago. Am a big Copper Canyon fan and a lot of this centers in the region. Liked it so much, bought a second used copy for my cousin. He had several DEA friends at one time and said that Grant's writing reminded him of their "war stories". 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Unusually good read! By ann smith I liked the author's sense of humor, and his descriptive language. I will recommend this book to anyone who appreciates history, social studies, and going on a fantastic journey without leaving their home! I will read anything this author has published.

Twenty miles south of the Arizona-Mexico border, the rugged, beautiful Sierra Madre mountains begin their dramatic ascent. Almost 900 miles long, the range climbs to nearly 11,000 feet and boasts several canyons deeper than the Grand Canyon. The rules of law and society have never taken hold in the Sierra Madre, which is home to bandits, drug smugglers, Mormons, cave-dwelling Tarahumara Indians, opium farmers, cowboys, and other assorted outcasts. Outsiders are not welcome; drugs are the primary source of income; murder is all but a regional pastime. The Mexican army occasionally goes in to burn marijuana and opium crops -- the modern treasure of the Sierra Madre -- but otherwise the government stays away. In its stead are the drug lords, who have made it one of the biggest drug-producing areas in the world. Fifteen years ago, journalist Richard Grant developed what he calls "an unfortunate fascination" with this lawless place. Locals warned that he would meet his death there, but he didn't believe them -- until his last trip. During his travels Grant visited a folk healer for his insomnia and was prescribed rattlesnake pills, attended bizarre religious rituals, consorted with cocaine-snorting policemen, taught English to Guarijio Indians, and dug for buried treasure. On his last visit, his reckless adventure spiraled into his own personal heart of darkness when cocaine-fueled Mexican hillbillies hunted him through the woods all night, bent on killing him for sport. With gorgeous detail, fascinating insight, and an undercurrent of dark humor, *God's Middle Finger* brings to vivid life a truly unique and uncharted world.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . As he travels through Mexico's Sierra Madre, one of the largest drug-producing regions in the world, British journalist Grant (*American Nomads*) encounters a rugged landscape where the mythical old Mexico meets the challenges of the new. The birthplace of Pancho Villa and the Apaches' last refuge, the Sierra Madre has long been home to outlaws and eccentric characters that inspired a variety of American westerns. Into this legendary danger zone, with its exceptionally high murder rate, rides Grant on horseback, though he has never ridden previously. Grant is the finest kind of travel narrator; though fully cognizant of the dangers and foolhardiness of his obsession with this land, he throws himself into crazy situations, such as a quest for buried gold treasure, a sampling of Mexican folk remedies, a terrifying Tarahumara Indian ritual when God gets into his annual drinking bout with the Devil, a little cocaine or blasting parakeet with local drug dealers, and lots and lots of drinking. He narrates these adventures with unflappable charm and humor, risking his life to the reader's benefit, shared fear and delight of discovery. Though eventually worn out by his physically and emotionally challenging journey, Grant still manages to produce a clear-eyed, empathetic account of this complex, fascinating place. (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Twenty miles south of the Arizona-Mexico border, the Sierra Madre Mountains begin their ascent. Nine hundred miles long, the range climbs to nearly 11,000 feet and contains several canyons deeper than the Grand Canyon. Grant points out that the land is home to Indians, drug smugglers, bandits, Mormons, and opium farmers. Fifteen years ago, he explored this land, where he was chased by cocaine-fueled Mexican hillbillies seeking to kill him. He visited a folk healer hoping to cure his insomnia and was told to take rattlesnake pills, and he attended strange religious rituals. Grant also consorted with cocaine-snorting cops, taught English to Guarijio Indians, and hunted for an outlaws buried treasure. I never want to set foot in the Sierra Madre again, he writes. I was out of courage, out of patience, out of compassion. It was an arduous trip for Grant, but readers will be glad that he took it. --George Cohen "There is nothing here of the 'I jumped over a puddle' aspect of modern adventure stories. As an Englishman, Grant has far too much of the mad dog in his character, and I am surprised indeed that he survived his journey. This is a thoroughly enlivening book, the rare kind that makes you want to sleep with a pistol under your pillow." -- Jim Harrison, author of *Returning to Earth* "This is exactly the book you're hoping for when you pick it up: a crazy, sprawling story so well-written, you can't decide whether to keep reading or go to Mexico to see for yourself. Keep reading: You have an extraordinary book in your hands." -- Sebastian Junger, author of *The Perfect Storm*