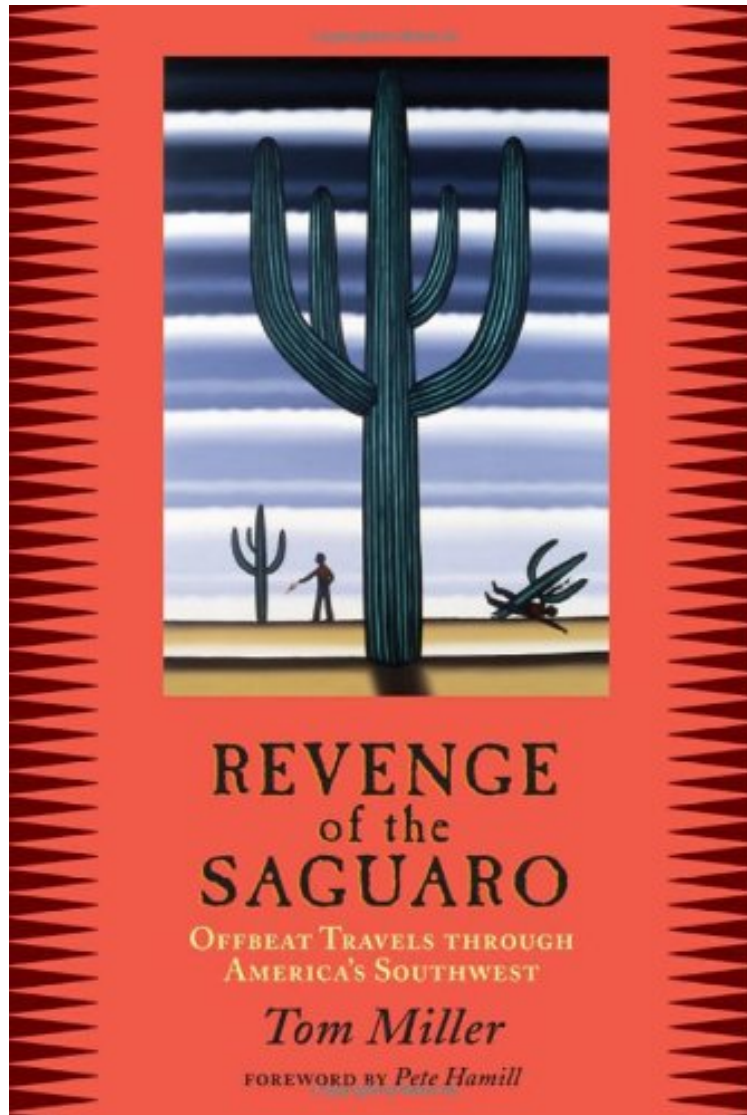


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Revenge of the Saguaro: Offbeat Travels Through America's Southwest

Tom Miller

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Tom Miller : Revenge of the Saguaro: Offbeat Travels Through America's Southwest before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Revenge of the Saguaro: Offbeat Travels Through America's Southwest:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Southwest at its mesmerizing best...By Cynthia Dagnal-MyronTom Miller's book reminded me of all the reasons I'll never be able to move back to Chicago, much as I love

Sweet Home. He knows the border towns and back roads better than most, and tells stories of those places and the people who live in those towns and on those roads like both a journalist and a poet. I thought I knew the history of some of the places he writes about, but now, I realize how much I still have to learn. Learning from Tom Miller is a pleasure. And this book is a treasure.

Tom Miller's Southwest is a vortex of cockfights and cantinas, of black velvet paintings and tacky bolo ties, of eco-militants, border-crossers, and eccentric characters whose outlook is as spare and elemental as the desert that surrounds them. This is Miller's turf. With wit and insight, he reveals how the clichés of romanticism and capitalism have run amuck in his homeland. When a saguaro cactus outside Phoenix kills its own assassin, it becomes clear that no other guide to the Southwest manifests such a clear moral vision while reveling in the joy of this magnificent land and its people. Originally published by National Geographic as Jack Ruby's Kitchen Sink, it received the Gold Award for Best Travel Book in 2000 from the Society of American Travel Writers. Tom Miller has been writing about the American Southwest and Latin America for more than three decades. His ten books include *The Panama Hat Trail*, which follows the making and marketing of one Panama hat, and *Trading with the Enemy*, which Lonely Planet says "may be the best travel book about Cuba ever written." Miller began his journalism career in the underground press of the late '60s and early '70s, and has written articles for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Yorker*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Natural History*, and *Rolling Stone*. He lives in Tucson, Arizona, with his wife, Regla.

"[Miller is] a superb reporter and slyly funny stylist. This is a compulsively readable book by one of our best non-fiction writers." *San Francisco Chronicle*"Tom Miller knows his Southwest, and in [this book] he takes us on a tour of some of its quirky, funky characters and out-of-the-way places." *Los Angeles Times*"Miller is as quirky and delightful as ever, treating the Southwest as a vast midden from which he plucks many odorous but tasty treasures. The fun, as usual, comes from watching Tom digest." Larry McMurtry"Tom Miller loves the American Southwest the way a man loves a wayward, difficult woman, accepting her trashy, all-too-interesting history while knowing the heartbreaking truth. A rueful, wonderful, highly personal guide." Martin Cruz Smith"Residents, potential visitors, and armchair travelers alike will be captivated by Miller's informative and often humorous book, in which the romance and reality of the Southwest are intermingled within a fine narrative." *Library Journal*"Miller's essays in *Revenge of the Saguaro* are travel writing of a sort, but they are of a different species entirely than the tips about what posh places to eat at or sleep in that one finds in glossy travel magazines. Instead, Miller offers an insiders account of the grit, local gossip, and glorious bad taste that are a part of what endears the Southwest to its residents." *New West- Books Writers*"Imaginative, inventive, witty Miller has written a wonder-filled book." *The Salt Lake Tribune*"Miller writes with passion about the region and relays it with as much skill as John Steinbeck." *Siouxland Weekly (Iowa)*"Maybe the story of David Grundman the man who, out of boredom, shotgunned a 125-year-old saguaro cactus only to be crushed to death under its 3,000 pound carcass is a metaphor for mans struggle against nature in the unforgiving Arizona desert. Maybe its just hilarious. Tucson travel writer Tom Miller seems to think the latter [Miller's telling] elevates a good anecdote into a great piece of writing." *San Antonio Current*