

Reviews

As a writer, people tell me the various ways they read books or stories in magazines. They say if it doesn't grab them in the first paragraph, or by the first page, they don't continue. This story pulls you in right away, and you can't put it down. A true story that you wish wasn't.

— Josh Board, San Diego Reader

The Mexican jail in which my friend Sam was unjustly confined was like nothing any American would expect. “Co-ed” with young children running about, shops selling all manner of goods, condos for the privileged and others sleeping on the out in the open, when I first visited Sam there it struck me as bizarre as the bar in the first Star Wars movie. Inside the 20 foot concrete and barbed wire high walls, the large block in eastern Tijuana was truly a “little city” and each inmate there had his or her own fascinating story to tell about their encounter with the “system” in Mexico.

— Alan Mandelberg, Ph.d.

Sam Warren did nothing wrong, but in Mexico it seems they can make almost anything turn into a crime which can be punished by life in prison without possibility of comfort, if not parole.

Sam experienced the best and worst of prison life, from friends defending him from the bad guys to having to live in total and complete squalor. The life in Mexican prisons is not filled with days at bar-bells and basketball with trays of food served at three times a day. And what is a TV? The electrical system is a spaghetti of wires strung from almost any source and dangerous as jumping in a swimming pool wearing a necklace of live wires. Naps are optional, of course. The food is scavenged and the times are as random as nuclear accidents and, of course, about as corrosive.

The tale of how he survived is amazing. actually, it's one of the best telling the real conditions inside the Mexican judicial system. Be sure to take time out for reading it, because you won't be able to put the book down. It's not just a page turner, it's enthralling and captivates your mind. The images are there for you and it's almost as if you are inside that prison with Sam.

There is a curiosity among prisoners in Mexico, it seems. The better prisoners seem to have enough money and friends "outside" to provide them with comfort and living conditions to very nearly match their previous lives.

Let's never forget, the Mexican laws are archaic and one is clearly guilty until they can prove innocence. Not that bail isn't available, but it's up to the Juez to decide and that's capricious at best.

That Sam survived is a testament to his resilience and stamina. And, he's done a good job retelling the events leading up to his imprisonment and then following the days, almost one at a time.

— Olin Thompson, author

The Mexican jail in which the author was unjustly confined was like nothing any American would expect. “Co-ed” with young children running about, shops selling all manner of goods including drugs, condos for the privileged and others sleeping on the out in the open, It would strike anyone as bizarre as the bar in the first Star Wars movie. Inside the 20 foot concrete and barbed wire high walls, the large block in eastern Tijuana was truly a “little city” and each inmate there had his or her own fascinating story to tell about their encounter with the “system” in Mexico.

— Margaret Chase, author/lecturer