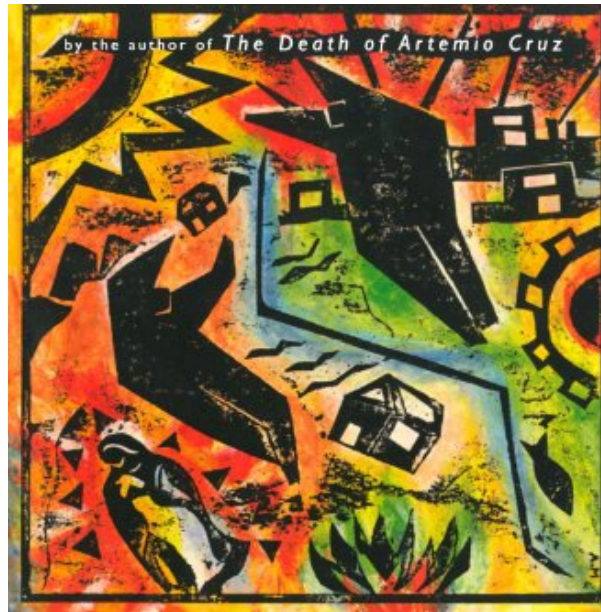


THE CRYSTAL FRONTIER BY CARLOS FUENTES



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THE CRYSTAL

A Los Angeles Times Best Book of the Year

FRONTIER

A New York Times Notable Book of the Year

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From Library Journal

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From Booklist

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From Mexico's preeminent man of letters, "a Balzacian novel in nine masterly stories" (Vanity Fair) that explores the "uneven and painful meshing of two North American cultures" (Washington Post Book World). A New York Times Notable Book of the Year. A Los Angeles Times Best Book of the Year. Translated by Alfred Mac Adam.

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From Library Journal

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By NMDanLe

I recommend it.

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Ambivalent novel long on poetry, short on solutions

By R. Decker

Tedious novel in the form of nine linked stories shows Mexican life from multiple angles, none too flattering. The crystal frontier of the title is, of course, the U.S.-Mexican border; what matters here is less the border as geopolitical fact and more its impact on the Mexican psyche. The author aims his barbs at both sides of the border; there's little surprising here except perhaps for the portrayal of a disdainful Mexican upper class that couldn't care less about how the other half lives or whether it lives or starves. Book clubs will find this a useful tool for stirring up discussion on the illegal drug and immigration issues whether they read through to the end or not; those who do will be rewarded with a chapter written half in normal prose and half in surreal fragmentary lines of poetry, the effect of which is not unlike sitting through a Tarkovsky double-feature.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

An exercise in empathy

By Ellen Morris

An achingly beautiful, haunting series of interwoven stories...people I know, people I can imagine. Viewing events through the eyes of different people was reminiscent of Kurasawa's *Rashomon*. As a sucker for short

stories, my favorite was the title piece.

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