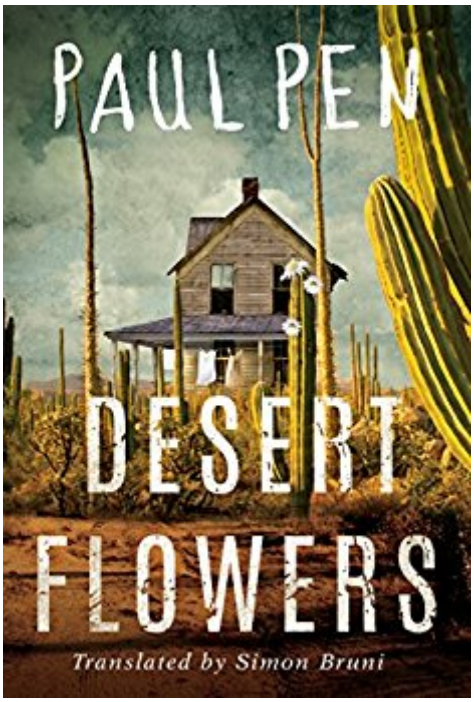
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# Desert Flowers




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## Synopsis

Rose and Elmer have created an idyllic sanctuary for themselves and their five daughters in MexicoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Baja California desert. Out there in the middle of nowhere, blissfully cut off from the burdens of modern society, theyÃ¢â ¬â„¢re free to raise their beautiful familyÃ¢â ¬Â¦and preserve its secret.And theyÃ¢â ¬â„¢re never giving it up.Then a young hiker named Rick comes looking for a place to stay. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s just for the night, he saysÃ¢â ¬â •but long enough for Rose and Elmer to fear theyÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve made a horrible mistake. As the stranger grows more intrusive and more suspicious, the couple know they must do what they can to protect themselves. What they donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t know is that Rick has a secret, too. Soon, home and family will prove to be as cold and dark as the desert nights. And even with so many places to run, thereÃ¢â ¬â„¢s still no escape from the past that binds them.

## Book Information

File Size: 4683 KB

Print Length: 322 pages

Publisher: Crossing (August 8, 2017)

Publication Date: August 8, 2017

Sold by:Ã Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01N17Z8UT

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #809 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #26 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Literary Fiction > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense #30 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Literary Fiction > Women's Fiction #33 inÃ Â Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Psychological Thrillers

## Customer Reviews

The author, Paul Pen, proves himself to be a master of moods in the telling of a very well done novel about family and background. Rose and Elmer are introduced as husband and wife raising

their family in a remote location in Mexico's Baja California desert. They've chosen a lifestyle which allows them to spend time on making their daughters models for a happy existence and in which their parents see to all their needs. It is also a lifestyle which allows them to preserve a secret which if exposed could ruin their lives. They follow a set routine in which Elmer, the husband works at a gas station six days a week while Rose dedicates herself to being with their daughters hardly ever leaving their home. An extremely happy existence until one day Rick, a young hiker, happens on their property. He asks to stay over one night to rest and manages to change everything for the family. What secrets does he carry, what are his intentions towards Elmer and Roses' family and what are his goals towards them? It is in this phase of the book that Mr. Pen's ability to radically change the mood he has set up at the opening stands out. The ending is not telegraphed at all until the final segment of the book but the story is 100% guaranteed to keep the reader engrossed and glued to the novel as it develops. A very well done story and sure to make the author one that will be sought after in his future writings.

I devoured this book in 2 days. It has been awhile since I read a book so descriptive and haunting. I felt like I was really experiencing the isolation of living in a desert region surrounded by cactus, miles from any other people. It was evident that this dysfunctional couple was hiding from civilization. The couple and their four children live off the grid with no telephone and only interact with a teacher who home schools 3 of the children. The father drives miles into town for work and only the 2 oldest children have ridden into town with him on a few occasions. The effects of living in this sheltered environment is exhibited in the idiosyncrasies of the children, one who talks to rocks and cactus and one who lives through characters in books. This isolation is shattered one day when a mysterious stranger appears on the family's property. The conclusion is horrifying and at the same time inevitable.

***I won this book via the Goodreads program. This has not influenced my review.***I am not sure how to label this book - it's kind of an understated drama, it's kind of a suspense book. The feel of it reminded me of a grainy 1950's western movie in black and white where it's hot and sticky, cactus and tumbleweed, and it's just absolutely desolate.The idea behind the story is that people have things to hide. An American family living in the middle of nowhere Mexico is there to hide something. An American man on a hike through the desert of Mexico has something to hide. When they all meet, they continue to hide and deceive one another: it's a game of chicken to see who uncovers which secret first.The translation is mostly smooth. There are few repetitive phrases that only

appear in pockets (family members cuff each other a few times and then never again). There are not a lot of descriptions or history given. For example, we never learn what happened to Edelweiss. It's really a snapshot of time.The best characters are the daughters and their individual personalities. In the end, it's the daughters and who they are that define the future for everyone. I found that to be a nice twist.

Read this via my Kindle Unlimited. I wasn't disappointed! Desert Flowers was even better than By The Light Of The Fireflies, if that's possible. It left me breathless, not wanting to get to the end yet impatient to know the ending. I never, ever give 5 stars lightly but for this book I'd gladly give ten if only it were possible. What happens when a family is living in isolation by choice in order to live out a fantasy they've created...then a stranger who's been looking for them appears? Oh my, this was an excellent read! Thank you, Paul Pen.

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