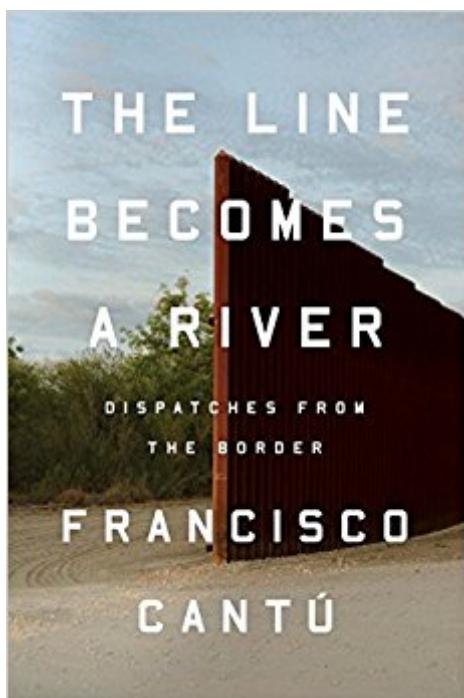


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# The Line Becomes A River: Dispatches From The Border



## Synopsis

"A beautiful, fiercely honest, and nevertheless deeply empathetic look at those who police the border and the migrants who risk - and lose - their lives crossing it. In a time of often ill-informed or downright deceitful political rhetoric, this book is an invaluable corrective."--Phil Klay

For Francisco CantÃ³fÃº, the border is in the blood: his mother, a park ranger and daughter of a Mexican immigrant, raised him in the scrublands of the Southwest. Haunted by the landscape of his youth, CantÃºfÃº joins the Border Patrol. He and his partners are posted to remote regions crisscrossed by drug routes and smuggling corridors, where they learn to track other humans under blistering sun and through frigid nights. They haul in the dead and deliver to detention those they find alive. CantÃºfÃº tries not to think where the stories go from there. Plagued by nightmares, he abandons the Patrol for civilian life. But when an immigrant friend travels to Mexico to visit his dying mother and does not return, CantÃºfÃº discovers that the border has migrated with him, and now he must know the whole story. Searing and unforgettable, *The Line Becomes a River* makes urgent and personal the violence our border wreaks on both sides of the line.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"CantÃºfÃº's story, and intelligent and humane perspective, should mortify anyone who ever thought building a wall might improve our lot. He advocates for clarity and compassion in place of xenophobia and uninformed rhetoric. His words are emotionally true and his literary sensibility uplifting." Barry Lopez, author of *Arctic Dreams* and *Of Wolves and Men*

"This book tells the hard poetry of the desert heart. If you think you know about immigration and the border, you will see there is much to learn. And you will be moved by its unexpected music."  
—Luis Alberto Urrea, author of *The Devil's Highway*

Francisco CantÃ³n served as an agent for the United States Border Patrol from 2008 to 2012, working in the deserts of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. A former Fulbright fellow, he is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize and a 2017 Whiting Award. His writing and translations have been featured in *Best American Essays*, *Harper's*, *n+1*, *Orion*, and *Guernica*, as well as on *This American Life*. He lives in Tucson.

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