

Diario de Oaxaca

A Sketchbook Journal of Two Years in Mexico

Peter Kuper

Introduction: Martín Solares

Painting a vivid, personal portrait of social and political upheaval in Oaxaca, Mexico, this unique memoir employs comics, bilingual essays, photos, and sketches to chronicle the events that unfolded around a teachers' strike and led to a seven-month siege.

When award-winning cartoonist Peter Kuper and his wife and daughter moved to the beautiful 16th-century colonial town of Oaxaca in 2006, they planned to spend a quiet year or two enjoying a different culture and taking a break from the U.S. political climate under the Bush administration. What they hadn't counted on was landing in the epicenter of Mexico's biggest political struggle in recent years. Timely and compelling, this extraordinary firsthand account presents a distinct artistic vision of Oaxacan life, from explorations of the beauty of the environment to graphic portrayals of the fight between strikers and government troops that left more than twenty people dead, including American journalist Brad Will.

This expanded paperback edition includes 32 pages of new material.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Peter Kuper is a cofounder and editorial board member of political graphics magazine *World War 3 Illustrated* and a teacher who has taught at New York's School of Visual Arts and Parsons School of Design. Best known for drawing *Mad* magazine's *Spy vs. Spy* comic since 1997, he has also illustrated covers for *Newsweek* and *Time* magazine. He is the author of the graphic novel *Ruins*, winner of the 2016 Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album, as well as *Drawn to New York* and *The System*. He lives in New York City.

Martín Solares is a Mexican writer and editor. He's the author of the novel *The Black Minutes*, which has been translated into English, French, Italian, German, Polish, Russian, Korean, and was a finalist for the Rómulo Gallegos, the Antonin Artaud, and the Bibliothèque des Littératures Policières Prizes. Director Mario Muñoz is currently adapting Solares's script for a movie. In 2014, Solares published a book of essays concerned with fiction, *How to Draw a Novel*.

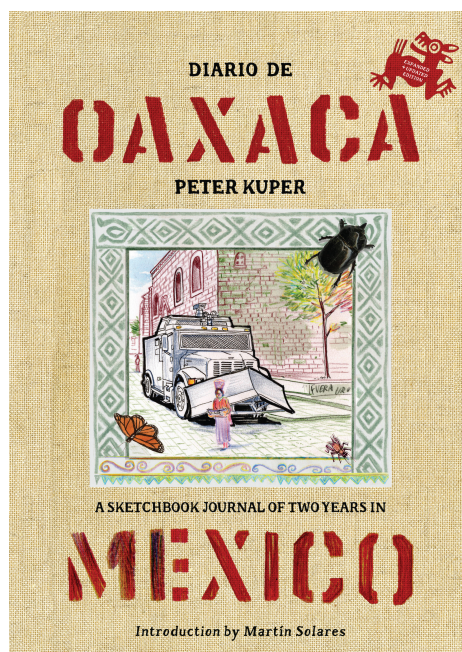
ACCOLADES

"Kuper is a colossus; I have been in awe of him for over twenty years. Teachers and students everywhere, take heart: Kuper has in these pages borne witness to our seemingly endless struggle to educate and to be educated in the face of institutions that really don't give a damn. In this ruined age we need Kuper's unsparing compassionate visionary artistry like we need hope."

—Junot Díaz, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

"Peter Kuper is undoubtedly the modern master whose work has refined the socially relevant comic to the highest point yet achieved."

—Newsarama.com



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