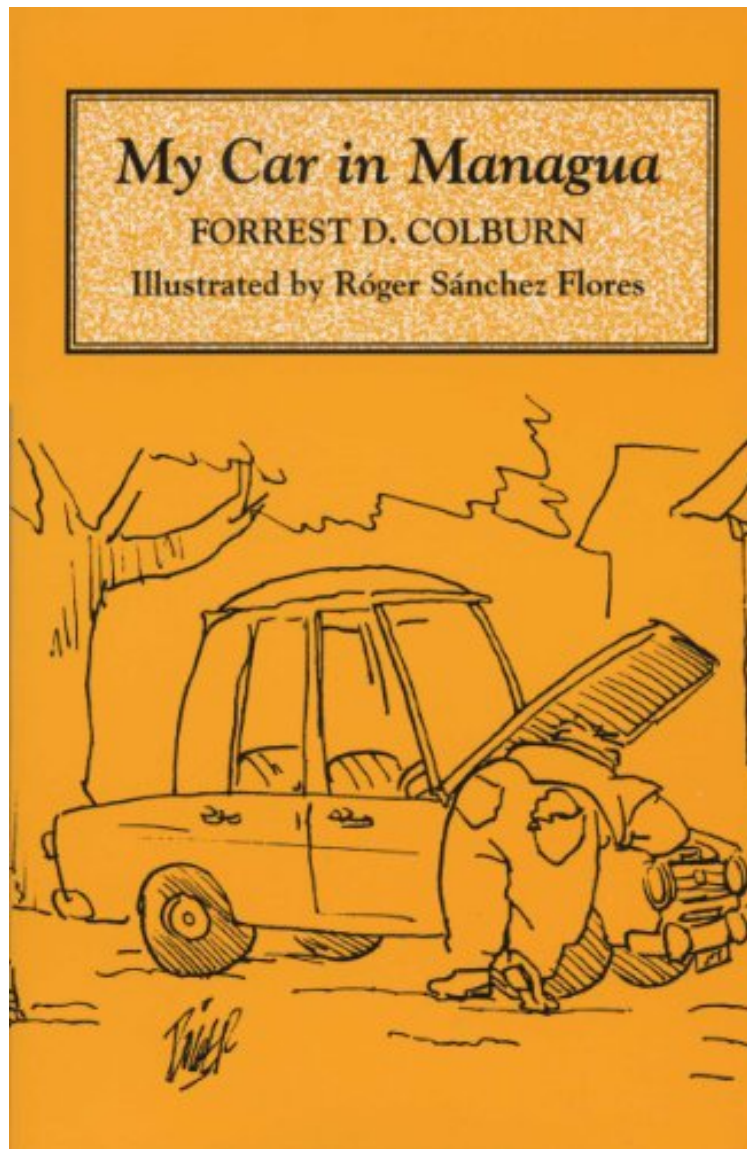


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My Car in Managua

Von Forrest D. Colburn

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Von Forrest D. Colburn : My Car in Managua before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Car in Managua:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Outstanding, humorous writinga small tour de force.Von Ein KundeFor those familiar with Colburn's Post-
Revolutionary Nicaragua: State, Class and the Dilemmas of Agrarian Policy, this slim volume will come as a pleasnt
surprise indeed. Void of academic pedantry, My Car in Managua delivers us from economic tables and shows us the

life of everyday Nicaraguans. Colburn does this with splendid humor and tight, concise writing. Illustrated by noted Nicaraguan cartoonist Roger Sanchez Flores, the entire text charms from beginning to end. Without saying so directly, Colburn exposes the void that was U.S. foreign policy throughout the 1980s—a goal easily enough achieved, but seldom with such humble grace.

Kurzbeschreibung Histories of revolutions often focus on military, political, or economic upheavals but sometimes neglect to connect these larger events to the daily lives of "ordinary" people. Yet the peoples' perception that "things are worse than before" can topple revolutionary governments, as shown by the recent defeat of the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua and the governments of Eastern Europe. Providing the kind of prosaic, revealing details that more formal histories have excluded, *My Car in Managua* offers an objective, often humorous description of the great difficulties and occasional pleasures of life in Nicaragua during the Sandinista revolution. During a year's work (1985-1986) at the Instituto Centroamericano de Administracin de Empresas (INCAE), Forrest Colburn purchased a dilapidated car and with it an introduction to everyday life in Nicaragua. His discoveries of the length of time required to register the car (approximately six weeks), the impossibility of finding spare parts (except when U.S. dollars were applied to the search), and the fact that "anyone getting into a car in Managua can be charged a small fee [for car watching] by anyone else" all suggest the difficulties most Nicaraguans faced living in a devastated economy. Drawing on experiences from visits throughout the revolutionary period (1979-1989), Colburn also sheds light on how the Revolution affected social customs and language, gender roles and family relationships, equality and authority, the availability of goods and services, the status of ethnic minorities, and governmental and other institutions. Illustrations by Nicaragua's celebrated political cartoonist Roger Sanchez Flores enliven the lucid text.

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