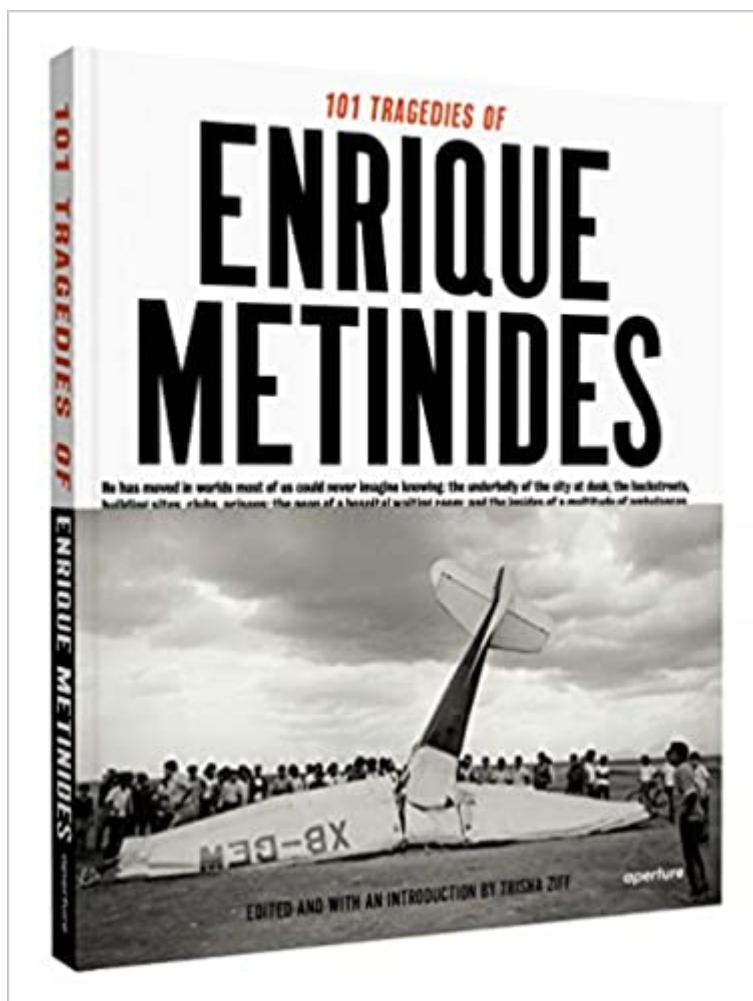


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# 101 Tragedies Of Enrique Metinides



## Synopsis

"101 Tragedies" is Enrique Metinides' selection of the key 101 images from his half-century of photographing crime scenes and accidents in Mexico for local newspapers and the "notas rojas" (or red pages--for their bloody content) crime press. Alongside each image, extended captions give Metinides' account of the situation depicted--the life and characters of the streets, the criminals, the heroism of emergency workers and the sadness of bereaved families--revealing much of his personality in the process. Thirty of the selected photographs are paired with their original newsprint tearsheets, preserved by Metinides, the typography of which has inspired the design of this book. The images are compiled by Trisha Ziff, a filmmaker and curator who knows Metinides well, and who here contributes an essay about his life, work and personality. The first overview of the photographer in many years, "101 Tragedies" is also the only Metinides monograph comprised of images chosen by the photographer himself, and which offers his own account of his life's work. Enrique Metinides (born 1934) worked as a crime photographer for more than 50 years, capturing murders, crashes and catastrophes for Mexico's infamous crime magazines. He has won numerous prizes and received recognition from the Presidency of the Republic, journalists' associations, rescue and judicial corps and Kodak of Mexico. In 1997 he received the "Espejo de Luz" (Mirror of Light) Prize, awarded to the country's most outstanding photographer. His work has been shown at numerous international venues, including The Museum of Modern Art and Anton Kern Gallery, New York; Photographers' Gallery, London; and Les Rencontres d'Arles Photographie, Arles, France.

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## Customer Reviews

Enrique Metinides (born in Mexico City, 1934) worked as a crime photographer for over fifty years, capturing murders, car crashes, and catastrophes for the *nota rojas*, Mexico's infamous crime magazines. He has won numerous prizes and received recognition from the Presidency of the Republic, journalists' associations, rescue and judicial corps, and Kodak of Mexico. In 1997 he received Mexico's Espejo de Luz Prize (Mirror of Light), awarded to the country's most outstanding photographer. His work has been shown internationally, including at the Museum of Modern Art and Anton Kern Gallery, New York; and Photographers' Gallery, London. Trisha Ziff is a curator of contemporary photography, a filmmaker, and a Guggenheim Fellowship recipient. She has produced and directed several award-winning documentary films that deal with photographic subjects, including *The Mexican Suitcase* (2010) and *Chevolution* (2008).

I received this book a few hours ago and I still cannot put it down. It's riveting. The layout is simple: there are photos of 101 numbered "tragedies" with a brief explanatory blurb for each (in some cases, a mere two or three sentences). There are also a handful of images of newspaper spreads interspersed throughout to give readers an idea of the kind of photos the media often chose versus those the photographer felt were most poignant. These photos span the late 1940s through the early 1980s, with the bulk of them appearing to be from the 1960s and 1970s. All were taken in Mexico and, with a few exceptions, are in black and white. The book includes a few shots that Metinides took as a teenager; these, in combination with occasional notes on his technique, will be interesting to photography enthusiasts who enjoy tracking a professional photographer's development. History buffs will likewise appreciate the vivid portrait of the country, its culture, and its collective response to traumas during a period that was rife with them. Metinides actually traveled to crime and accident scenes in the backs of ambulances, which allowed him unprecedented access. Many of these photos were taken even before first responders got to work. Perhaps most compelling are the photos that are not of the actual tragedies, but of people who are in the act of witnessing them. For example, when a husband killed his wife and then himself in front of their four children, Metinides chose to photograph the children as they viewed the horror. Another image that won't soon fade for me was the picture of a mother carrying a tiny coffin for her child down a busy city sidewalk after having begged on the street for the money to purchase it. Another mother is

shown wailing over the coffin of her small child, whom the hospital had removed from life support when it learned that the mother could not pay the bill. Afterwards, the hospital kept the child's body as collateral until the mother was able to pay - a shocking portrait of an operating procedure that mocks the idea of unconditional care that most of us have learned to expect from hospitals. Then there are the many photos in which onlookers, including children, are swamping the scene. It's hard to look at a picture of a child lying dead on the street after being hit by a car, surrounded by other children all staring in fascination from less than a foot away. But one of the greatest feats of this book is that the photos somehow manage not to be sensationalistic; instead, you get a sense of appreciation and respect for, and solidarity with, humanity.

Ah! The Mexico I know and love. The Mexico that swings between calamitous and capricious. The photos within this volume showcase best how fate disregards human striving and intentions. The printed results, misfortunes actually, often seem cruel but they simply serve to reinforce life's precariousness. And there's nothing any of us can do about it!

Amazing and chilling work from the most famous Mexican police photoreporter.

In the United States pop culture we are fascinated with the macabre with zombies, murders, and tragedies reflected in our most popular movies and media. In *101 Tragedies of Enrique Metinides* edited by Trisha Ziff with her introduction you get a peek into the realities of life. With joy, there is tragedy and no one is immune to death. As a photographic reporter, Eric Metinides opens up his scrap books and body of work to share with the readers, each tragedy is catalogued and synopsis written by the photographer. After reviewing this book several times you always notice the mundane of death, most look like they are sleeping, are caught in a moment when they were moving along and smash here comes death via an accident, electrocution, or murder. Each tragedy is numbered and they all come from the 60s through the 80s. The allure of Mexico City with an estimated 30 million inhabitants you are aware within these tragedies there always is a guaranteed audience. The most touching are the children, that even with all the mess, they keep a small part of their innocence intact. One such is a photograph where the boy has his hand squashed in a meat grinder. The blank stare of onlookers to terrible tragedies, but we are all guilty of slowing down when we see an accident, a bit of voyeur instinct to the horrors of the world around us. *101 Tragedies of Enrique Metinides* edited by Trisha Ziff is a perfect addition to any library, it is truly a conversational starter for any occasion. The photographs are beautiful tell a store of forgotten moments of the bizarre.

The work of Metinides has been overlooked for years, and it's great that he's finally getting his due (and around to see it). If you're a book collector, you'll want to scoop up the special "house edition" offered directly from Aperture. The Aperture-only version has a fold-out poster for a jacket, albeit with a much more gruesome cover image. Head over to Aperture website to get a copy (there's only limited copies so get them quickly).

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