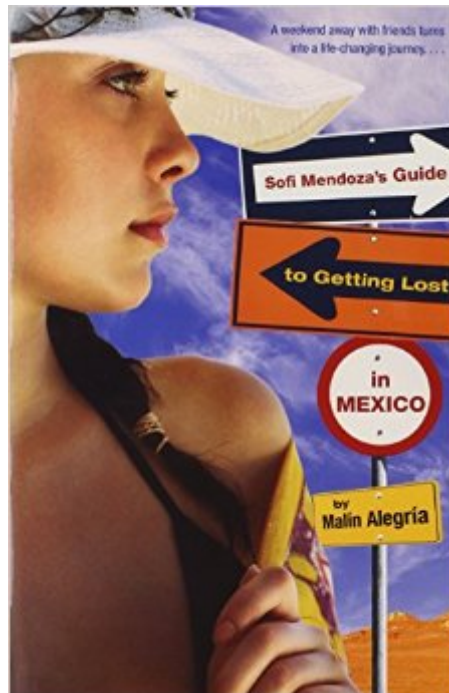


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# Sofi Mendoza's Guide To Getting Lost In Mexico



## Synopsis

"Do you guys have Internet?"..."How about TiVo?"..."You do get American TV?" The house was dark. Wait a minute -- do they even have electricity? Even though Sofi Mendoza was born in Mexico, she's spent most of her life in California -- the closest she gets to a south-of-the-border experience is eating at Taco Bell. But when Sofi and her friends sneak off for a weekend in Tijuana, she gets in real trouble. To Sofi's shock, the border patrol says that her green card is counterfeit. Until her parents can sort out the paperwork and legal issues, Sofi is stuck in Mexico. In the meantime, Sofi's parents arrange for her to stay with long-lost relatives in rural Baja. It's bad enough that Sofi has to miss senior prom and even graduation, but her aunt, uncle, and cousins live on a ranch with no indoor plumbing! As the weeks pass, though, she finds herself adapting to her surroundings. Sofi starts helping out on the ranch, getting along with her bratty cousins, and she even meets a guy with more potential than anyone from school. Through the unexpected crash course in her heritage, Sofi comes to appreciate that she has a home on both sides of the border.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 670 (What's this?)

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (July 29, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689878125

ISBN-13: 978-0689878121

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,011,941 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #154 in [Books > Children's](#)

[Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Mexico](#) #222 in [Books > Teens >](#)

[Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Multigenerational](#) #390 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > New Experiences](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

The YA "teenage girl goes on an international trip and learns about herself" novel is a rather overexposed subgenre in which books filled mediocre writing, vapid storylines, and flat protagonists

often proliferate. Nothing could be further from the truth in the case of Sofi Mendoza's *Guide To Getting Lost In Mexico* by Malin Alegria, though you wouldn't know it from looking at the totally boring and generic cover. Sofi Mendoza is a senior in high school growing up in California.

Frustrated by her overprotective parents' strict (and often unreasonable) rules, she tells them she'll be at a friend's house for the weekend and heads south across the border into Mexico to party at the vacation home of her crush's parents with some friends. Caught between two cultures: the Mexican one everybody assumes she identifies with due to her background and appearance, and the American one she claims as her own, Sofi unwittingly embarks on a journey of self discovery. What started out as an unsupervised party weekend filled with beer and prospects of making out turns into a much more serious self-examination of her personal identity, values, culture, heritage, and lifestyle when Sofi attempts to re-enter the United States with her friends, only to discover that her green card is a fake. Marooned in Mexico with an aunt, uncle, and cousins she has never met, Sofi is furious and heartbroken. With little in the way of material resources, she's forced to summon personal strength she didn't know she had while trying not to focus on missing the Senior Class Trip, Prom, Finals Week, and Graduation.

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