

# POSTCARDS FROM PLAYA BLANCA

PHOTOS BY COREY KRUITBOSCH  
TEXT BY TOM BIE

Hey Mom!

Here's the place I went last week. It's a resort about a 3-hour drive south of Cancun, across Ascension Bay from a tiny town called Punta Allen. (It's straight south of Tulum on your Mexico map.) Some people coming here take a van to Punta Allen and then get picked up by a boat that brings them across the bay to the dock you see in this photo. We didn't have to drive because the resort—it's actually two resorts, Playa Blanca and Casa Blanca—also has a little landing strip, so we got to fly down in a private plane. (That's how I took this photo.) I don't want to make you nervous, so I won't send you any shots of the landing strip... I know you don't like having to print photos off the Internet, so I threw some more shots in for you and just wrote notes on the pictures. Enjoy!

Love,  
your lucky son

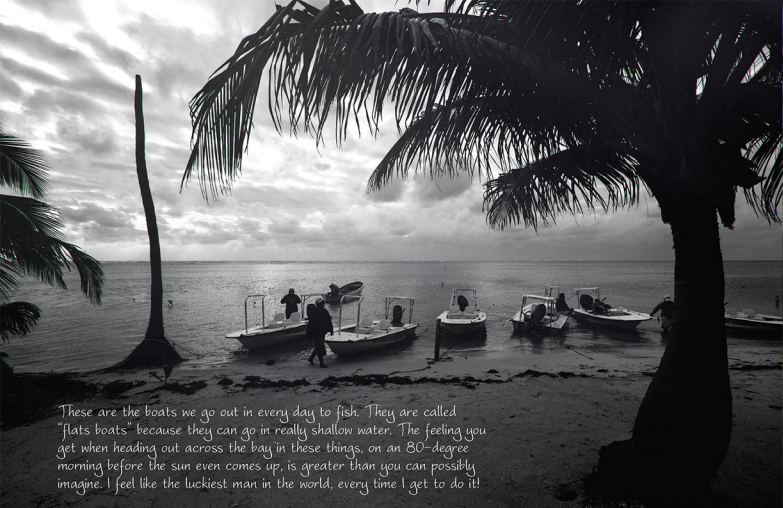


MOM

4486 Pecos Street

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USA



These are the boats we go out in every day to fish. They are called "flats boats" because they can go in really shallow water. The feeling you get when heading out across the bay in these things, on an 80-degree morning before the sun even comes up, is greater than you can possibly imagine. I feel like the luckiest man in the world, every time I get to do it!



This is a permit—  
they're really hard  
to catch!



This is a bonefish, the most common fish to flyfish for down here. They are really fast but don't jump.



And this is a tarpon, the third of the "Big Three" that most people target on the flats. It may look docile in this photo, but when you hook one...

...It does this!



...And a little bit of this...



And this...



...And sometimes this.



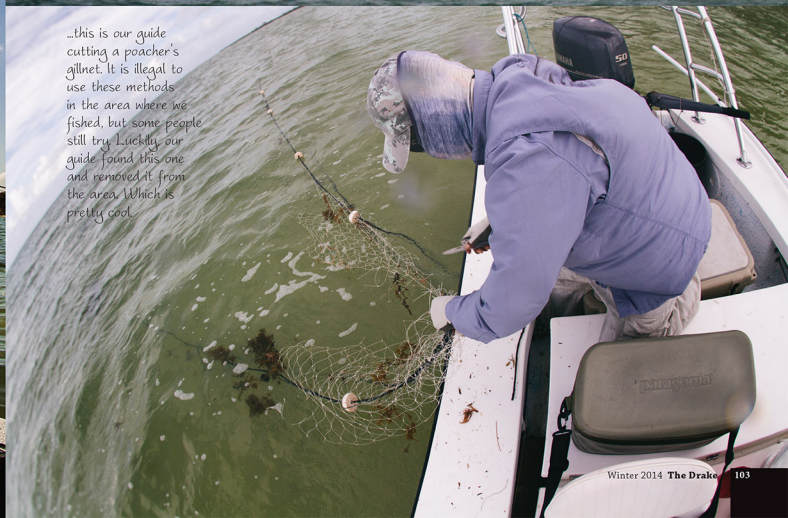
Here is my friend on the front of our boat. Sometimes, especially when fishing for permit, we will stand like this for hours without making a cast. It's a very hard thing to try and explain. But at least this was a sunny day. When it's not sunny down here...



...it looks like this. If weather is this bad, it's almost impossible to see the fish, so then we mostly just drink. But sometimes we're more productive...



...this is our guide cutting a poacher's gillnet. It is illegal to use these methods in the area where we fished, but some people still try. Luckily, our guide found this one and removed it from the area. Which is pretty cool.





This is the entrance to my room at the lodge. The photo on the wall is of these ancient "water trails" that the Mayan people have cut through the mangroves over thousands of years. The trails are super cool to go through in a boat, but sometimes they aren't cut quite as cleanly as the one in the photo. In fact, much of the time...



Good fly rods can be pretty expensive. This is probably like 15 grand in rods. And these are just the ones I brought down. HA! Just kidding, mom!!—One of them is joey's. Which reminds me...



They look more like this.



...I could use some new wading boots!