



Paletitas de Guayaba on a Train Called Absence

By Erlinda Gonzales-Berry

Floricanto Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 208 pages. Dimensions: 8.3in. x 5.5in. x 0.6in. *On a Train Called Absence* *Paletitas de Guayaba* was first published in Spanish by El Norte Publications (Albuquerque, 1991). The story is narrated in the first person by the protagonist, Marina, who is traveling by train from New Mexico to Mexico City in search of her identity, her history, and answers to many questions that are tormenting her. As the train carries her through the Mexican landscape, she has flashbacks of her life in New Mexico, a failed romance, and a previous journey. The narration also flashes forward to her arrival, and to her discoveries and adventures in Mexico, where she confronts both her historical and mythical past as well as her complex, multicultural present. The themes of hybrid identity, the Chicano movement, Mexican history, U. S. -Mexican relations, and female sexuality are explored, in a highly experimental and self-reflecting narratorial style that is lyrical, profound, and sometimes profane. Although there are many books describing the reality of life for Chicanos living in the United States, only a few books address the problem of identity with an actual journey back to the *madre patria* (Mexico). This experience...

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