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EL PENCO (PAPERBACK)



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Midpoint Trade Books, United States, 2014. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Mateo Xavier Manuel Rodriguez Aguerra-Veracruz, known to everyone as Penco (slang for orphan) is an artist from northern New Mexico. Twelve years ago, Penco hitchhiked to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, to start a new life. Single-minded about his painting and haunted by memories of the lost world of his childhood, he has become a recluse. When Penco starts to work as a bus driver, the chaotic streets and characters of Juarez begin to reconnect him with the world. He spends time with friends from El Cafe Mision, a local bar frequented by the elusive Gabriella, a fellow artist; Penco s best friend Frederico, the head chef at the only four-star restaurant in the city; Twain de Vaca, a American film studies student who irritates Penco with his admiration; and a German tightrope walker, Heinrich Damrosch. Ultimately, Penco s friends, the bus passengers, and encounters with three strangers allow him to confront the haunting images and fears from his childhood, a necessary step if he is ever to return home. Ann McGlinn lived and worked in Juarez in the 1990s, before the city became most known as a place of violence. With a poet s economy of style, she has captured the gritty essence of the city and its vibrant communities in those years.

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