



Memory and Identity in the Narratives of Soledad Puertolas: Constructing the Past and the Self (Hardback)

By Tamara L. Townsend

Lexington Books, United States, 2014. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 231 x 155 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Narratives of contemporary Spanish writer Soledad Puertolas (1947-), inducted into the Real Academia Espanola in 2010, depict the psychological struggles of the individual in postmodern democratic European society. Puertolas's realist style emphasizes storytelling and character portrayal, and her urban middle-class characters seek satisfying interactions with others and a sense of purpose. Memory aids characters in their quest for meaning and identity, and their use of memory reveals their self-perception and outlook on life. This book maps four ways in which Puertolas's narratives use memory to approach the fundamental problem of the individual's search for purpose and identity. Some characters are burdened by memory in certain texts, especially *Dias del Arenal* (1992) and *Burdeos* (1986). Reflection upon a painful self-defining memory affects their present mood and behavior. For some, this burden causes them to withdraw or to act irresponsibly; others accept and overcome the scars of the past. A second type of character takes an escapist approach to memory, as seen in *Queda la noche* (1989). Their nostalgic retreat indicates a restless dissatisfaction with the present. In a third...



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