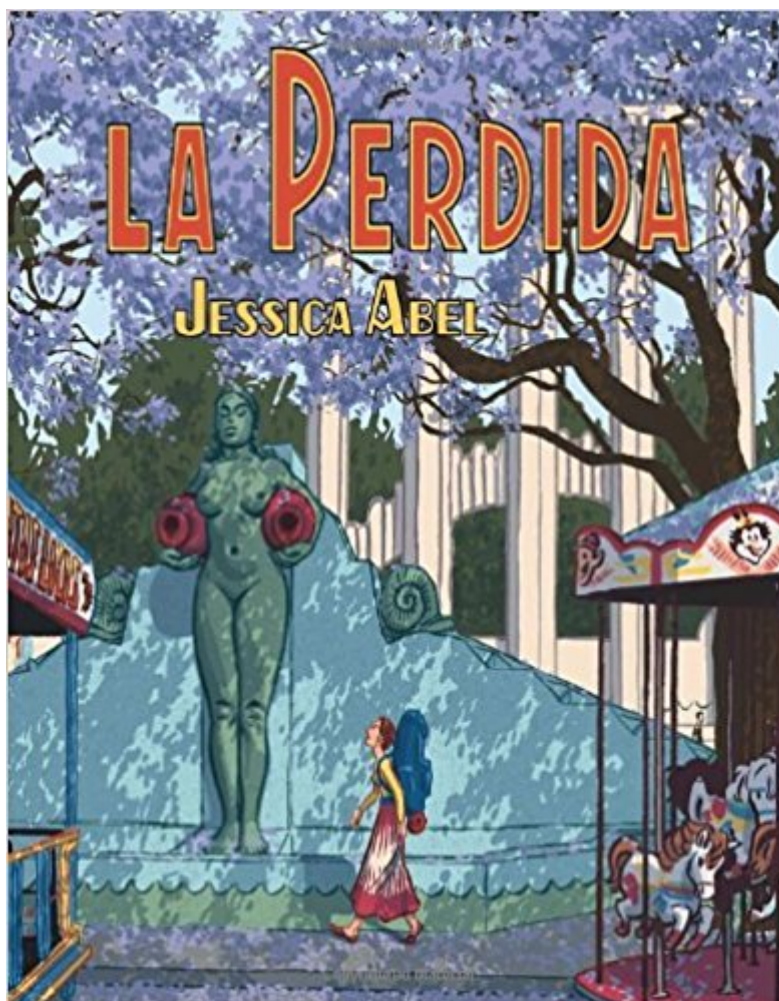


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La Perdida (Pantheon Graphic Novels)



Synopsis

From the Harvey and Lulu award-winning creator of *Artbabe* comes this riveting story of a young woman's misadventures in Mexico City. Carla, an American estranged from her Mexican father, heads to Mexico City to "find herself." She crashes with a former fling, Harry, who has been drinking his way through the capital in the great tradition of his heroes, William S. Burroughs and Jack Kerouac. Harry is good-humored about Carla's reappearance on his doorstep until he realizes that Carla, who spends her days soaking in the city, exploring Frida Kahlo's house, and learning Spanish, has no intention of leaving. When Harry and Carla's relationship of mutual tolerance reaches its inevitable end, she rejects his world of Anglo expats for her own set of friends: pretty-boy Oscar, who sells pot and dreams of being a DJ, and charismatic Memo, a left-wing, pseudo-intellectual ladies' man. Determined to experience the real Mexico, Carla turns a blind eye to her new friends' inconsistencies. But then she catches the eye of a drug don, el Gordo, and from that moment on her life gets a lot more complicated, and she is forced to confront the irreparable consequences of her willful innocence. Jessica Abel's evocative black and white drawings and creative mix of English and Spanish bring Mexico City's past and present to life, unfurling Carla's dark history against the legacies of Burroughs and Kahlo. A story about the youthful desire to live an authentic life and the consequences of trusting easy answers, *La Perdida* is at once grounded in the particulars of life in Mexico and resonantly universal. It is a story about finding oneself by getting lost. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Carla Olivares, a young Mexican-American woman, goes to Mexico City to try to get in touch with her Mexican side. She's got her own, distorted ideas about what that means, and her annoyance with an old boyfriend who's leading his idea of the romantic expatriate life (by hanging out exclusively with other expats) makes her even more nervous about coming off like an outsider. She starts hanging out with a bunch of local lowlifes and blowhards who feed her guilt about being a privileged "conquistadora." They talk big (about stardom and revolution), but barely scrape by on petty crime— which eventually becomes not so petty, and sucks Carla into a vortex of fear and violence. Abel's published several books of her shorter comics stories, but for her first long-form graphic novel she's developed a new, impressively assured style, built around bold, rough brushstrokes. She's got a telegraphic command of body language— her characters' faces are simplified to the point where their eyes are usually just dots— and the backgrounds nicely evoke the architecture and heat of Mexico City. What really makes the story compelling, though, is Abel's sensitivity to character and dialogue— Carla is the narrator, but she's hardly a heroine, and the way crucial meanings are lost in translation ratchets up the dramatic tension. (Mar.) Copyright Á © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 10 Up— Twenty-something American slacker Carla moves to Mexico, land of her long-lost father. She crashes at the apartment of her ex-boyfriend, a wealthy, WASPy American who socializes mostly with people like himself. Carla soon meets some locals, wannabe revolutionary Memo and wannabe DJ Oscar. After moving in with Oscar, she becomes less engaged in society, rarely interacting outside of this limited group. As she becomes even less involved, her naïveté allows some horrible events to occur. While readers see the writing on the wall long before Carla catches on, she is still a sympathetic heroine. This is Abels first full-length graphic novel after her Artbabe comic and collections (Fantagraphics), and its both simple and ambitious. The black-and-white artwork is sketchy, but evocative. The story is intricately plotted and suspenseful. The decision to write the first chapters dialogue in Spanish, translated at the bottom of the panels, is interesting. Later, when Spanish is spoken predominantly, all of the dialogue is in

English, putting words that were actually spoken in English in brackets. This not only reflects Carlas move into Spanish, but also allows readers to feel more strongly her lack of knowledge upon arriving in Mexico. The lengthy glossary defines Spanish words, phrases, vulgarities, and characters and places referenced in the text. Abel has successfully portrayed characters both on the fringes of society, and those who wish that they were. Æ Jamie Watson, Harford County Public Library, MD Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My first graphic novel I have read, I really enjoyed it, and thought it was a fun way to read a book! The plot ends a little unsatisfying-ly for myself, however, I would not let that discourage you from trying to read a graphic novel!

Jessica Abel logra capturar el sentimiento de la Ciudad de México, y yo sentí como que conocí a todos sus personajes. Jessica Abel captures the feeling of Mexico City, and I felt as if I knew each one of her characters

The book arrived on time as ordered. Reading through it is iffy. The artistry is good and the story appears interesting. However, I had to read the book for a college class and it's honestly just not that engrossing. I'm sure many people will like it, just not a page turner in my opinion. C4.

Oh man, where to start. This book is pretty disjointed. The characters are hardly developed and the entire novel is a big downer.. the main character makes poor decisions one after another as she continues to make it clear to everyone around her, unknowingly to the reader, hates her home country of America. Due to this disdain she leaves to live in Mexico with literally no plan other than to freeload on a dude she hardly knows and his friends until opportunities are handed to her. Can't make rent but you're drunk everyday? Yeah let me flock to read this compelling story of your life struggles.

thnaks

A unique look into mixed identities and borders between being mexican or a gringa. The illustrations are also great. The whole story does an amazing job at asking questions people are afraid to talk about.

I just wish she had more comics out there. I loved art babe, and La Perdida is wonderful!

Fabulous book!! Recommended.

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