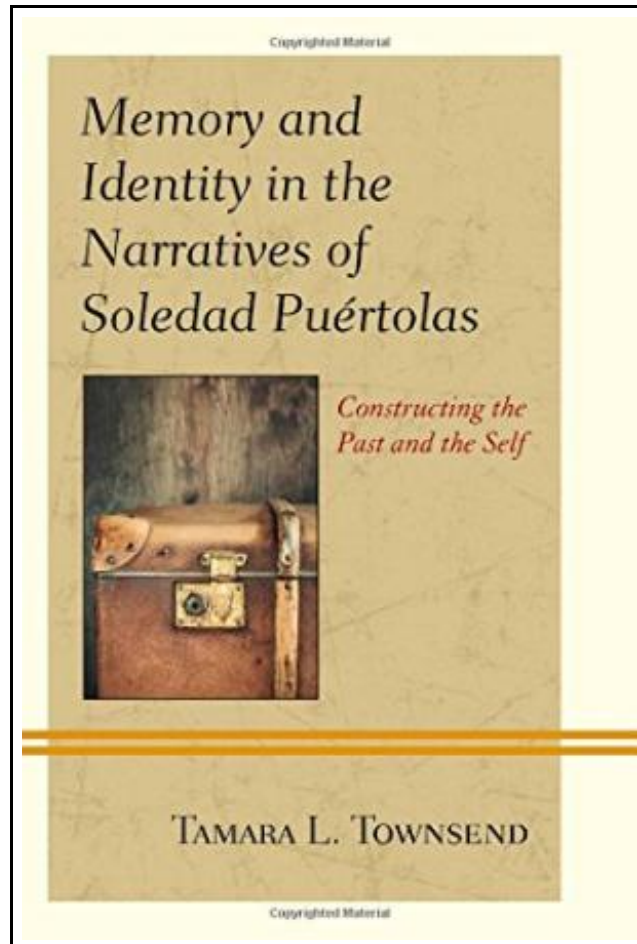


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Lexington Books, United States, 2014. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 231 x 155 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Narratives of contemporary Spanish writer Soledad Puertolas (1947-), inducted into the Real Academia Espanola in 2010, depict the 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 type of memory, a secondary character provides the organizing force behind a protagonist s reminiscences, often an extroverted foil to highlight the protagonist s introspective nature. Memory of the relationship motivates the protagonist to mentally order his or her own life through the life review process; *Una vida inesperada* (1997) and *La senora Berg* (1998) provide examples. Finally, in the amnesic mode, Puertolas departs from realism to experiment with different forms of amnesia, as in *La rosa de plata* (1999) and *Si al atardecer llegara el mensajero* (1995). Memory loss highlights the centrality of memory to personhood and identity, while...

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