



As Far as I Know

By Joseph Somoza

Cinco Puntos Press,U.S., United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. From the foreword, Freight Train : Being an immigrant from Spain who spoke mostly Spanish but who wanted to become full-fledged American, I also wanted to make my poems from ordinary, spoken English, without excessively rhetorical devices, the kind of language spoken by my first heroes in America, my uncle Arthur and his buddies who would meet at his gas station regularly to shoot craps, drink Ballantine Ale, and recall their youthful adventures as merchant seamen, the real language of men, as William Wordsworth called it. This would be a natural American-English language that an ordinary American in a heightened state of emotion might actually speak, a language heightened just enough to draw attention to itself but not so much that it would sound artificially poetic, the kind of language a later hero of mine, Jack Kerouac, used. The Trees Sitting here among my friends the trees, I feel their quietude, the gratitude they show by holding out their limbs, generously allowing the moss to grow on them, and squirrels and birds to build nests in their crowns. They don...

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