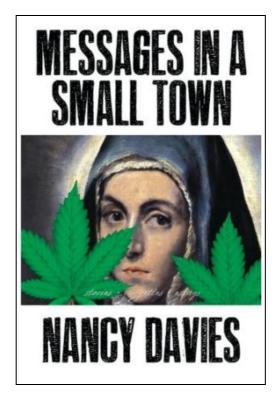
# Messages in a Small Town



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# Reviews

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(Derick Brekke)

### **MESSAGES IN A SMALL TOWN**



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Nouveau Proletariat, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 234 x 156 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. In this collection of short stories and essays, Nancy Davies, the author The People Decide, steps away from the turmoil of the Oaxaca uprising of 2006 to meticulously evoke intimate human aspects of life in Mexico. As both journalist and poet, she describes the lives of Mexicans riding the stream of cultural change since the onset of the new millennium. Some stories, like Messages in A Small Town, deal with universals: the unchanging aspects of love, marriage, and betrayal, presented by Davies with the soft humor of lovers using the technology of cell phones to surreptitiously communicate. In the story The Dogs Were Barking, she explores the sadness and resentment of those left behind, in this case a solitary elderly widow, whose sons left for the United States in pursuit of a better life and were never heard from again. Finally she finds solace with the help of a mysterious boy who appears from the nearby hills and helps the old woman reconnect to her missing children through memories of each one as each appears transfigured, a permanent part of her beloved garden. In The High Wall and The Woman Next Door, Davies approaches the difficulties of immigration from the point of view of the emigrants. A writer comes to Oaxaca to compose her first novel, but a feral cat routinely pees in her garden. The neighbors advise her to poison the cat, but this method is culturally unacceptable to the writer, and she looks for other solutions. In The Woman Next Door, a middle-aged woman whose elderly husband does not try to integrate or acclimate to their new life, tries to connect with their enigmatic neighbor...



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