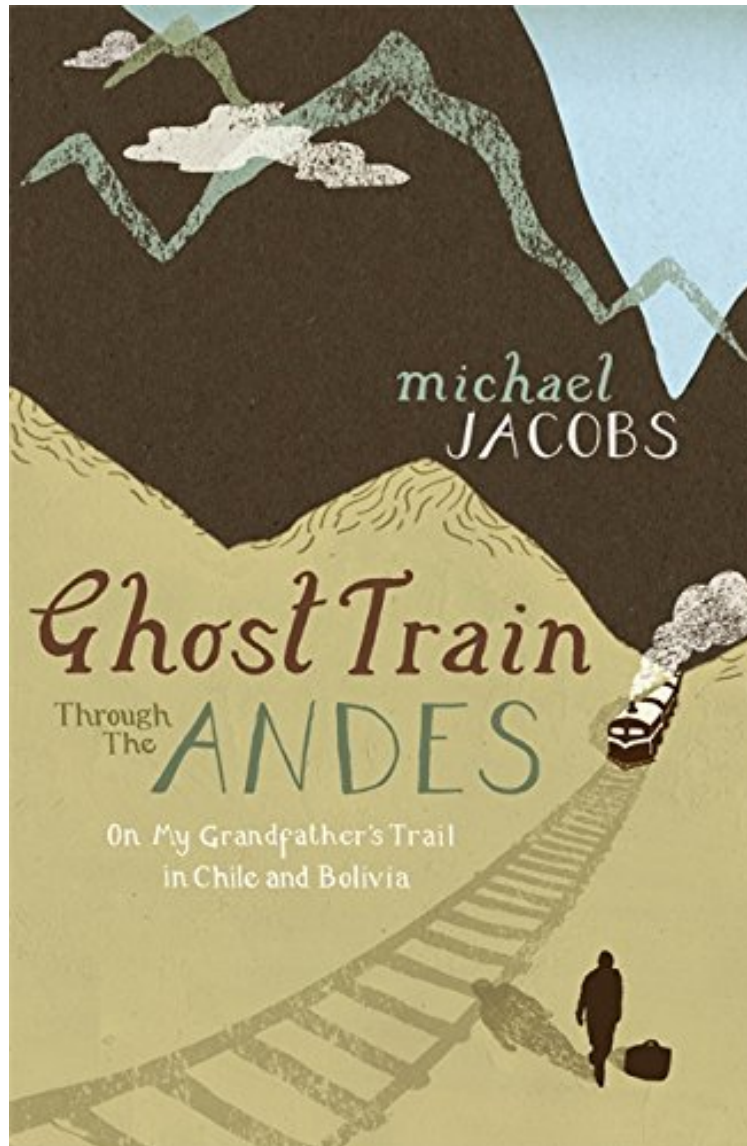


(Read now) Ghost Train Through the Andes: On My Grandfather's Trail in Chile and Bolivia

Ghost Train Through the Andes: On My Grandfather's Trail in Chile and Bolivia

Michael Jacobs

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Michael Jacobs : Ghost Train Through the Andes: On My Grandfather's Trail in Chile and Bolivia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ghost Train Through the Andes: On My Grandfather's Trail in Chile and Bolivia:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Andean tale well toldBy On the edge in DCA look at an

important but relatively unknown episode in South America history, the turn of the last century construction operation of Andean railroads and the role of its foreign work force. Michael Jacobs's well written engaging account of his grandfather's involvement in the Antofagasta (Chili) Bolivia Railway Co. Ltd. will be of interest to railroad buffs and Andean historians, and, more broadly, to anyone who likes a tale well told. Dan

It was not until long after his grandmother, Sophie, had died, that Michael Jacobs was eventually permitted to read the lengthy and passionate letters that his grandfather Bethel had written her from nine thousand miles away. In these letters, Jacobs discovered a remarkable story of hardship, deprivation and enduring love. His grandfather's work on the railway through the Andes was exhausting and desperately lonely. He had little in common with his fellow workers and became consumed by a mounting despondency, from which only his love for Sophie could save him. But, as the months and years of separation passed, the world in which Sophie was blossoming appeared more and more remote from his own. Michael Jacobs' journey back through time takes him from a rain-swept Hull churchyard to desolate Antofagasta in Chile and to the former silver capital of Potosi. Climbing through ghostly, lunar-like scenery towards the snow-capped summits of the Andes, he follows the route of his grandfather's railway - across giant rocky plateaux, through terrifyingly steep gorges and valleys of tropical lushness, and past grim mining townships buffeted by winds, rain and snow - to reveal an extraordinary love story.

"* 'Turbulent, tender, irreverent and funny... Sheer delight' - Joanne Harris, author of CHOCOLAT * 'Michael Jacobs's book does everything a book ought to do: it amuses, delights and instructs' - Chris Stewart, author of DRIVING OVER LEMONS * 'A finale worthy of Fellini' - Geraldine Cooke, Independent * 'A welcome reminder that close encounters of the Mediterranean kind don't have to be all froth and bubble' - Anthony Sattin, Sunday Times * 'A journey of Chaucerian richness' - Barnaby Rogerson, Country Life * 'A magical, enraptured book' - John Walsh, Independent * 'Jacobs is one of the best writers on all things Spanish' - The Tablet * 'The particular strength of this eloquent, unhurried tale is its depiction of the author's friendship with El Sereno... There is a winning Quixote-Panza double act' - Miranda France, Daily Telegraph" About the Author Michael Jacobs has a PhD from the Courtauld Institute of Art. All things Hispanic have obsessed him since childhood and he has translated a number of Spanish and Latin American plays. He is a member of the Andalucian Academy of Gastronomy and in 2002 was made the first foreign knight of 'The Very Noble and Illustrious Order of the Wooden Spoon'.