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Good Mourning California

Solo Stauffacher

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Solo Stauffacher : Good Mourning California before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Good Mourning California:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Quirky, Engaging, Prophetic By Lorenzo de Aragua Quirky, engaging and prophetic, this highly personal account of the history and problems facing California remains a valid and lively tome nearly 25 years after it was published (1992). The author's drawings and photos lighten up the pages as the reader is delivered interesting factoids and historical points of view on the development of California. Drought, immigration, rampant urban development, it's all here!

A poetic exploration of California's landscape, nature, and gardens mixes the author's drawings, collages, and photographs with a lively text to bring the state's seductive terrain to life. By the author of *Green Architecture* and the *Agrarian Garden*.

From Publishers Weekly Seventeenth-century European explorers imagined California to be an island; in Solomon's view, the Golden State today is an oasis of myths and illusions. Spliced together with her own images of highways, the Marlboro Man, painted maps, conceptualist doodles and photomontages, her reflective free-form essay presents the California dream as a triumph of the synthetic, a narcissistic haven where "everyone writes their own myths," where originality is passe and "freedom is being free to conform." A California artist and architect, Solomon (*Green*

Architecture and the Agrarian Garden) here provides a social topology of gardens, from San Franciscans' backyard vegetable patches to the golf-course-sized lawns of conservative Republicans. She examines the racist and jingoist underpinnings of westward-moving Americans' myth of Manifest Destiny, then looks at California's new wave of Asian and Latino immigrants, squeezed in a state where "poverty has always been a sin." A disturbing, provocative collage. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.