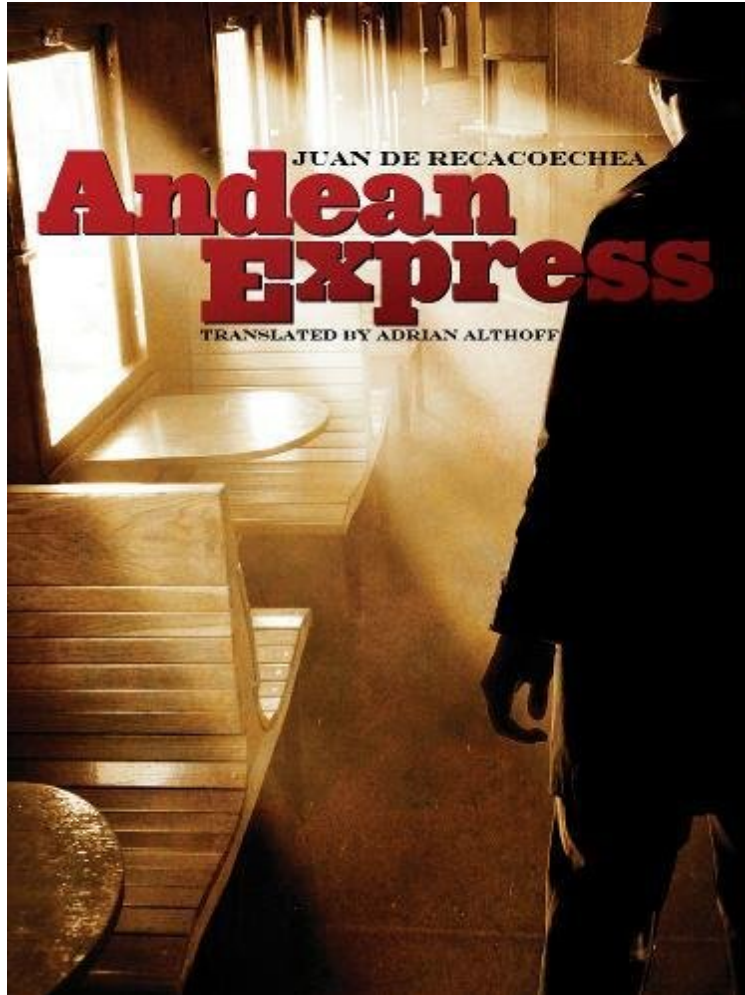


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Andean Express

Juan de Recacoechea

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Juan de Recacoechea : Andean Express before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Andean Express:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Murder on the altiplano By Kindle Customer To me, the best murder mysteries are those set in unusual places and/or times. This one certainly qualifies, as it happens on a train from La Paz, Bolivia, to Arica, Chile, in the 1950s. It might be subtitled Murder at 16,000 feet or Snakes on a Train, the snakes being the first class passengers who know and hate the victim. It is not a typical mystery. We know the perpetrator, so there is no investigation, no evidence to be uncovered. What we do not know until the end is the person who paid for the deed. The story is also a morality play. The victim is a truly reprehensible character, who has stolen the property of others and bedded their mates. He is on a honeymoon trip with his lovely teenage bride, daughter of one of the victims of his perfidy, who he anticipates deflowering. Everyone on board the first class has reason to wish for his death, but

whodunit, or at least paid for it? More importantly, is the murder of such a repulsive person justifiable? In essence, this story is more parody than serious mystery, but it makes a delicious little ride through rather unknown territory. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A fine read. By Mej After reading *American Visa*, I was ready to devour Recacoechea's new novel, *Andean Express*. After two books now, one thing is clear--the author has a solid ability to build his characters and weave a narrative that reveals the complicated nature of each character's life. Bolivian social classes, and the politics of of this country in 1952, are played out well, but the overall narrative is not nearly as strong as the details within. Don't get me wrong. This is a fine book. It's not amazing, ...more After reading *American Visa*, I was ready to devour Recacoechea's new novel, *Andean Express*. After two books now, one thing is clear--the author has a solid ability to build his characters and weave a narrative that reveals the complicated nature of each character's life. Bolivian social classes, and the politics of of this country in 1952, are played out well, but the overall narrative is not nearly as strong as the details within. Don't get me wrong. This is a fine book. It's not amazing, but it's certainly not bad. If you're into the Noir/mystery scene this could fall into either of those categories, but the ending is a bit light. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By ann caywood tedious at times, but gives a very good sense of the country/changes and expectations.

"Part social commentary, part mystery thriller [*Andean Express*] is a chilling, tragic tale." MultiCultural Review This murder mystery follows a tragic overnight train journey in 1952 from Bolivia to Chile, presenting a moving environment at once carnivalesque and sinister. The novel explores the social tensions characteristic of Bolivian society in a way that is both accessible and highly entertaining. Juan de Recacoechea was born in La Paz, Bolivia, and worked as a journalist in Europe for almost twenty years. After returning to his native country, he helped found Bolivia's first state-run television network and dedicated himself to fiction writing. His novel *American Visa* won Bolivia's National Book Prize, was adapted into an award-winning film, and was translated into English and published by Akashic Books to great critical acclaim.

From Publishers Weekly In this leisurely, character-driven study set in 1952 from Bolivian author de Recacoechea (*American Visa*), a train ride across the high Andean plain serves as the stage for a high-stakes card game, a quick sexual encounter and murder. The dramatic trip across the Antiplano from La Paz, Bolivia, to the Chilean seaport of Arica only incidentally recalls Agatha Christie's classic *Murder on the Orient Express*. The large cast mirrors the political and social scene, including an older businessman and his teenage wife, a skirt-chasing college student, a revolutionary disguised as a priest, expatriates from Ireland and Russia, and a deadly one-legged mine worker who struck at the floor with his crutches la Long John Silver, his favorite fictional character. More Camus than mystery thriller, this novel delights like strong coffee savored in a cosmopolitan cafe. (Apr.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Juan de Recacoechea was born in La Paz, Bolivia, and worked as a journalist in Europe for almost twenty years. After returning to his native country, he helped found Bolivia's first state-run television network and dedicated himself to fiction writing. His novel *American Visa* won Bolivia's National Book Prize; was adapted into an award-winning film. Adrian Althoff is a freelance journalist and translator based in La Paz, Bolivia and Washington, D.C.