

why don't you want to take the subway in spanish

Why don't you want to take the subway in Spanish

Tomarse el metro o el subway en otros países puede parecer una opción conveniente y rápida para desplazarse por la ciudad. Sin embargo, muchas personas consideran que hay varias razones por las cuales no desean tomar el metro en español, ya sea por preocupaciones de seguridad, comodidad, higiene o preferencias personales. En este artículo, analizaremos en profundidad las principales razones por las cuales alguien podría decidir no usar el metro en países hispanohablantes o en comunidades donde el idioma principal es el español. Además, ofreceremos alternativas y consejos para quienes prefieren explorar otras opciones de transporte.

Razones principales por las cuales no quieres tomar el metro en español

A continuación, se presentan las razones más comunes que llevan a las personas a evitar el uso del metro en países hispanohablantes o en comunidades de habla hispana.

1. Preocupaciones de seguridad

La seguridad es una de las principales inquietudes al decidir no usar el metro, especialmente en áreas donde los delitos relacionados con el transporte público son frecuentes.

- **Robo y carteristas:** En muchas ciudades, los viajeros han reportado casos de carteristas y robos dentro de los trenes y estaciones, lo que genera inseguridad.
- **Violencia y delitos:** En algunas zonas, la presencia de delincuentes puede representar un riesgo, incluso en horarios diurnos.
- **Agresiones y altercados:** Las aglomeraciones pueden facilitar situaciones de acoso o agresión, especialmente contra mujeres y personas vulnerables.

2. Problemas de higiene y limpieza

La higiene en el metro o el subway puede variar considerablemente, y en algunas ciudades, puede ser un motivo para evitar su uso.

- **Falta de limpieza:** La acumulación de suciedad, basura y manchas puede ser un factor desalentador.
- **Aire viciado y olores desagradables:** La ventilación deficiente puede generar ambientes poco agradables y olores desagradables.
- **Riesgo de enfermedades:** La cercanía en espacios cerrados y la falta de higiene pueden facilitar la transmisión de virus y bacterias.

3. Congestión y aglomeraciones

Otra razón por la cual muchas personas prefieren no usar el metro es la alta afluencia de pasajeros, especialmente en horas punta.

- **Molestias por multitudes:** Viajar en trenes saturados puede ser incómodo e incluso peligroso en casos de emergencias.
- **Falta de privacidad y comodidad:** La sensación de estar en espacios llenos y estrechos puede generar incomodidad emocional y física.
- **Posibles accidentes:** La aglomeración aumenta el riesgo de caídas o accidentes dentro del vagón o en las estaciones.

4. Problemas de accesibilidad y movilidad

No todos los sistemas de metro están diseñados para ser accesibles para personas con discapacidades o movilidad reducida.

- **Falta de infraestructura adecuada:** Escaleras, ascensores o plataformas no siempre están disponibles o en buen estado.
- **Limitaciones físicas:** Personas en silla de ruedas, con cochecitos de bebé o con dificultades para caminar pueden encontrar difícil usar el sistema.

5. Dificultades con el idioma y señalización

En ciudades donde no se habla español, o en comunidades donde la señalización está solo en ese idioma, puede ser un obstáculo.

- **Barreras lingüísticas:** La dificultad para entender instrucciones, anuncios o señalizaciones en otro idioma puede generar confusión y estrés.
- **Falta de información clara:** La información en el metro puede no estar disponible en español, dificultando la orientación.

6. Preferencias personales y culturales

Algunas personas simplemente prefieren otros medios de transporte por motivos culturales o personales.

- **Amor por caminar o usar bicicleta:** Algunas personas disfrutan del ejercicio físico y prefieren desplazarse a pie o en bicicleta.
- **Auto propio o transporte privado:** La comodidad de viajar en coche o taxi puede ser preferida por algunos viajeros.
- **Experiencia negativa previa:** Experiencias desagradables pueden condicionar la decisión de no usar el metro en futuras ocasiones.

Alternativas al uso del metro en países hispanohablantes

Para quienes prefieren no tomar el metro, existen diversas opciones de transporte alternativo que pueden ofrecer una experiencia más segura, cómoda o conveniente.

1. Autobuses y colectivos

Los autobuses suelen ser una opción más accesible y con menor riesgo de delitos que el metro.

- **Amplia cobertura:** Los autobuses conectan áreas que no siempre están cubiertas por el metro.
- **Costos menores:** Generalmente, el transporte en autobús es más barato.
- **Mayor comodidad en algunas rutas:** Algunos autobuses modernos ofrecen asientos cómodos y aire acondicionado.

2. Taxis y servicios de transporte privado

Las plataformas de transporte como Uber, Cabify o aplicaciones similares ofrecen una opción segura y privada.

- **Mayor seguridad:** Los conductores están verificados y las rutas son controladas digitalmente.
- **Comodidad y privacidad:** Viajes en vehículos privados y en horarios flexibles.
- **Disponibilidad en casi todas las áreas:** Accesible en zonas donde el metro no llega.

3. Uso de bicicletas y scooters eléctricos

Para desplazamientos cortos, las bicicletas y scooters eléctricos son una opción saludable y ecológica.

- **Flexibilidad y rapidez:** Permiten evitar el tráfico y desplazarse con facilidad.
- **Beneficios para la salud:** Ejercicio físico durante el recorrido.
- **Opciones de alquiler compartido:** Muchas ciudades ofrecen sistemas de alquiler por minutos.

4. Caminatas

En distancias cortas, caminar puede ser una alternativa saludable y

económica.

- **Sin costos adicionales:** Solo necesitas buen calzado.
- **Permite conocer mejor la ciudad:** Descubres lugares y detalles que en transporte motorizado pasan desapercibidos.
- **Beneficios para la salud:** Ayuda a mantenerse activo y en forma.

Consejos para quienes deciden no usar el metro en español

Si decides evitar el metro en tu rutina diaria, considera estos consejos para garantizar una experiencia segura y eficiente.

1. Planifica tus rutas con anticipación

Utiliza aplicaciones móviles o mapas para conocer las mejores alternativas y evitar confusiones.

2. Prioriza la seguridad

Opta por transporte en horarios adecuados, evita zonas peligrosas y mantén tus pertenencias vigiladas.

3. Usa medios de transporte confiables y bien evaluados

Infórmate sobre las opciones disponibles en tu ciudad y elige las que tengan buenas reseñas y recomendaciones.

4. Mantén una actitud vigilante y respetuosa

Respetar las normas y a los demás usuarios para garantizar un desplazamiento tranquilo.

5. Considera la movilidad sostenible

Siempre que sea posible, opta por alternativas ecológicas que beneficien tanto tu salud como el medio ambiente.

Conclusión

Aunque el metro puede ser una opción eficiente y económica en muchas ciudades, existen varias razones por las cuales alguien podría preferir no tomarlo en español. Desde preocupaciones de seguridad, higiene y accesibilidad hasta preferencias personales y culturales, las alternativas al transporte público convencional ofrecen diversas ventajas. Evaluar las opciones disponibles y tomar decisiones informadas puede mejorar significativamente la experiencia de desplazamiento, garantizando seguridad, comodidad y satisfacción. Recuerda que la elección del medio de transporte debe adaptarse a tus necesidades, circunstancias y preferencias, siempre priorizando tu bienestar y seguridad en cada viaje.

Frequently Asked Questions

¿Por qué no quieres tomar el metro?

No quiero tomar el metro porque a veces está demasiado lleno y puede ser incómodo.

¿Cuáles son las razones por las que prefieres no usar el metro?

Prefiero no usar el metro debido a las preocupaciones sobre la seguridad y la higiene.

¿El tráfico o la congestión influyen en tu decisión de no tomar el metro?

Sí, aunque a veces el metro está lleno, el tráfico también puede ser muy pesado, pero prefiero otras opciones.

¿Has tenido malas experiencias en el metro que te hagan evitarlo?

Sí, he tenido experiencias incómodas con robos y aglomeraciones que me hacen preferir otros medios de transporte.

¿Crees que el metro no es seguro en tu ciudad?

En algunos casos, sí, por eso soy cauteloso y evito usarlo en ciertas horas o zonas.

¿Te preocupa la contaminación o la higiene en el metro?

Sí, me preocupa la higiene y prefiero alternativas más limpias y seguras.

¿El costo del metro influye en tu decisión de no usarlo?

En realidad, no, el precio no es un problema, sino más bien las condiciones y la seguridad.

¿Tienes otra forma de transporte que prefieras en lugar del metro?

Sí, prefiero usar el coche o caminar cuando es posible.

¿El tiempo que tarda en llegar el metro te hace evitarlo?

A veces, sí, porque puede ser lento o tener retrasos frecuentes.

¿Las condiciones del metro en tu ciudad influyen en tu decisión?

Sí, las condiciones del transporte público afectan mucho mi elección, y a veces prefiero otras opciones.

Additional Resources

¿Por qué no quieres tomar el metro en español?

El transporte público es una parte integral de la vida urbana, permitiendo a millones de personas desplazarse diariamente de manera eficiente y económica. Sin embargo, no todos los usuarios disfrutan de la experiencia del metro o del metro en sí mismo. Desde preocupaciones de seguridad hasta cuestiones de higiene y comodidad, existen diversas razones por las cuales algunas personas prefieren evitar este medio de transporte. En este artículo, exploraremos en profundidad los motivos que llevan a alguien a decidir no tomar el metro en países hispanohablantes, analizando los aspectos culturales, sociales, técnicos y personales que influyen en esta decisión.

Seguridad y percepción del riesgo en el metro

La inseguridad en los vagones y estaciones

Una de las principales preocupaciones que enfrentan muchos usuarios del metro en países hispanohablantes es la percepción de inseguridad. En algunas ciudades, las estaciones y trenes son escenario de delitos como robos, asaltos o incluso agresiones físicas. La sensación de vulnerabilidad puede ser tan fuerte que disuade a las personas de usar este transporte, especialmente en horarios nocturnos o en estaciones menos concurridas.

- Robos y carteristas: La falta de vigilancia efectiva en ciertos horarios y zonas favorece la presencia de delincuentes que aprovechan la aglomeración para actuar.
- Agresiones y violencia: En algunas ciudades, se han reportado casos de agresiones físicas en trenes o plataformas, afectando la percepción de seguridad.
- Falta de presencia policial: La escasez de agentes de seguridad en estaciones y trenes incrementa la sensación de vulnerabilidad.

Problemas estructurales y de mantenimiento

Otra causa de inseguridad es el deterioro de la infraestructura. Vías en mal estado, trenes antiguos y estaciones descuidadas pueden convertirse en riesgos potenciales. Los accidentes o fallos técnicos, aunque raros, generan preocupaciones adicionales.

- Infraestructura envejecida: Muchos sistemas de metro en países en desarrollo o en expansión presentan problemas de mantenimiento.
- Fallos técnicos: Problemas en los trenes o en las vías pueden causar retrasos o, en casos extremos, accidentes.
- Falta de señalización adecuada: La confusión en las estaciones y en los trenes puede facilitar errores y generar situaciones peligrosas.

Problemas de higiene y salud en el metro

Condiciones de limpieza

Otra razón por la cual algunos prefieren evitar el metro tiene que ver con las condiciones higiénicas. La acumulación de suciedad, polvo, mugre y olores desagradables en los vagones y estaciones puede ser un factor decisivo.

- Vagones sucios: La limpieza irregular o insuficiente hace que los trenes se perciban sucios y poco higiénicos.
- Estaciones descuidadas: El mantenimiento deficiente en las estaciones puede generar acumulación de basura y falta de higiene.
- Agua y humedad: La presencia de humedad o filtraciones en algunos sistemas

puede generar ambientes insalubres.

Propagación de enfermedades

El metro, por su naturaleza cerrada y concurrida, puede convertirse en un foco de propagación de enfermedades. La cercanía entre pasajeros facilita la transmisión de virus y bacterias, especialmente en temporadas de gripe o pandemias.

- Congestión: La alta densidad de usuarios dificulta mantener la distancia y aumenta la exposición.
- Superficies contaminadas: Manijas, asientos y barandillas pueden albergar microorganismos.
- Ausencia de higiene personal: La falta de campañas educativas o recursos para la higiene personal en el sistema puede agravar el problema.

Comodidad y experiencia del usuario

Congestión y aglomeraciones

Muchas personas evitan el metro por las aglomeraciones, especialmente en horas pico. La sensación de estar en un espacio cerrado, abarrotado y sin ventilación puede generar ansiedad y malestar.

- Superlleno: Los vagones en horas punta pueden llegar a estar casi sin espacio para caminar.
- Falta de ventilación: La insuficiente ventilación en algunos trenes y estaciones agrava la sensación de sofoco.
- Tiempo de espera: La espera prolongada en estaciones abarrotadas o mal gestionadas puede ser frustrante.

Comodidad y servicios

El déficit en servicios básicos y en la comodidad de los trenes también influye en la decisión de no usar el metro.

- Falta de aire acondicionado: En muchas ciudades, los trenes antiguos no cuentan con sistemas de climatización adecuados.
- Asientos incómodos: La calidad y disposición de los asientos dejan mucho que desear.
- Falta de información clara: La señalización, los horarios y las instrucciones en algunos sistemas son confusos o insuficientes.

Impacto social y cultural

Estigmatización y prejuicios

En algunos contextos, el uso del metro está asociado con estigmas sociales o prejuicios culturales. Personas de ciertos grupos sociales, económicos o culturales pueden sentir que no son bienvenidas o que serán víctimas de discriminación.

- Percepción de marginalidad: En zonas donde el sistema de transporte es visto como inseguro o sucio, los usuarios pueden sentir vergüenza o incomodidad.
- Discriminación: Personas en situación de vulnerabilidad o con características diferentes pueden experimentar acoso o exclusión.
- Desigualdad social: La percepción de que el metro es un espacio exclusivo para ciertos grupos puede desincentivar su uso.

Preferencias individuales y culturales

Algunas personas simplemente prefieren otros medios de transporte por motivos culturales o personales, como caminar, usar bicicleta, coche particular o transporte privado.

- Comodidad personal: La preferencia por la privacidad y comodidad del coche propio.
- Flexibilidad: La posibilidad de viajar en horarios y rutas personalizadas.
- Costos: En algunos casos, el costo del transporte privado resulta más conveniente o percibido como más seguro.

Alternativas y soluciones para mejorar la experiencia

Mejoras en infraestructura y seguridad

Para reducir las razones que llevan a evitar el metro, las autoridades deben invertir en:

- Mayor presencia policial y sistemas de vigilancia en estaciones y trenes.
- Mantenimiento periódico y mejoras en la infraestructura.
- Implementación de tecnologías de seguridad, como cámaras y sistemas de alarma.

Programas de higiene y salud pública

Es fundamental promover campañas de higiene y garantizar condiciones sanitarias adecuadas mediante:

- Limpieza frecuente en trenes y estaciones.
- Instalación de dispensadores de gel antibacterial y puntos de lavado.
- Concienciación sobre la importancia de la higiene personal.

Modernización y confort del sistema

Para hacer el metro más atractivo, es necesario:

- Renovar trenes y estaciones para ofrecer mayor comodidad.
- Mejorar la señalización y la información al usuario.
- Incorporar sistemas de ventilación y climatización eficientes.

Fomentar una cultura de seguridad y convivencia

Generar conciencia sobre el respeto y la seguridad en el transporte público puede disminuir el miedo y la inseguridad. Programas educativos, campañas contra la violencia y la discriminación, y la promoción de la convivencia son pasos importantes.

Conclusión

El metro sigue siendo una de las formas más eficientes de movilidad urbana en países hispanohablantes, pero no está exento de desafíos. Las preocupaciones relacionadas con la seguridad, higiene, comodidad y aspectos sociales influyen en la decisión de muchas personas de no usar este medio de transporte. Sin embargo, con inversión en infraestructura, tecnología y cultura ciudadana, es posible transformar el sistema en una opción más segura, limpia y agradable para todos. La clave está en entender y abordar las causas que generan rechazo, promoviendo un transporte público que sea accesible, confiable y digno, para que más personas puedan beneficiarse de sus ventajas sin temor ni incomodidad.

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why don t you want to take the subway in spanish: Dictionary of Spoken Spanish U. S. War Dept, 2013-03-27 This is a complete, unabridged republication of a Dictionary of Spoken Spanish, which was specially prepared by nationally known linguists for the U.S. War Department (TM#30-900). It is compiled from spoken Spanish and emphasizes idiom and colloquial usage in both Castilian and Latin American areas. More than 16,000 entries provide exact translations of both English and Spanish sentences and phrases; as many as 60 idioms are listed under each entry. This is easily the largest list of idiomatic constructions ever published. Travelers, business people, and students who are interested in Latin American studies have found this dictionary their best source for those expressions of daily life and social activity not usually found in books. More than 18,000 idioms are given, not as isolated words that you have to conjugate or alter, but as complete sentences that you can use without change. A 25-page introduction provides a rapid survey of Spanish sounds, grammar, and syntax, with full consideration of irregular verbs. It is especially apt in its modern treatment of phrase and clause structure. A 17-page appendix gives translations of geographical names, numbers, national holidays for Spanish countries, important street signs, useful expressions of high frequency, and a unique 7-page glossary of Spanish and Spanish-American foods and dishes.

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why don t you want to take the subway in spanish: *Congressional Record* United States. Congress, 1991 The Congressional Record is the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress. It is published daily when Congress is in session. The Congressional Record began publication in 1873. Debates for sessions prior to 1873 are recorded in The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States (1789-1824), the Register of Debates in Congress (1824-1837), and the Congressional Globe (1833-1873)

why don t you want to take the subway in spanish: Anniversaries (Boxed Set) Uwe Johnson, 2018-10-16 A landmark of 20th Century literature about New York in the late 1960s, now in English for the first time. As a novel, Uwe Johnson's masterpiece, *Anniversaries*, is at once daringly simple in conception and wonderfully complex and engaging in effect. Late in 1967, Johnson, already one of the most celebrated German novelists of his generation, set out to write a book that would take the form of an entry for every day of the year that lay ahead. The first section was dated August 20, and Johnson had of course no idea what the year would bring--that was part of the challenge--but he did have his main character--Gesine Cresspahl, a German emigre living on the Upper West Side of New York City and working as a translator for a bank who is the single mother of a ten-year-old daughter, Marie. The book would tell the story of a year in the life of this little family in relation to the unfolding story of the year, as winnowed from the pages of the New York Times, of which Gesine is a devoted if wary reader. These stories would in turn be overlayed by another--Gesine is 34, born just as Hitler was coming to power, and she has decided to tell Marie the story of her grandparents' lives and of her own rural childhood in Nazi Germany. It is important that Marie know where and what she comes from. The days of the year are also anniversaries of years past. The world that was and the world of the 1960s--with the struggle for civil rights leading to riots in American cities and, abroad, the escalating destruction of the Vietnam War--are, in the end, one world. *Anniversaries* was published in four volumes over the more than ten years that it took Johnson to write it, and as the volumes came out it became clear that this was one the great twentieth-century novels. The book courts comparison to Joyce's *Ulysses*, the book of a day, and to Proust's *In Search of Lost Time*, the book of a lifetime, but it stands apart in its dense polyphonic interplay of voices and stories. *Anniversaries* is many books--the book of a mother and daughter, of a family and its generations, of the country and the city, and of two times and two countries that seem farther apart perhaps than they are. It is a novel of private life, a political novel, and a new kind of historical novel, reckoning not only with past history but with history in the making. Monumental and intimate, sweeping in vision and full of incident, richly detailed and endlessly absorbing, *Anniversaries*, now for the first time available in English in a brilliant new translation by Damion Searls, is nothing short of a revelation.

why don t you want to take the subway in spanish: Anniversaries, Volume 1 Uwe Johnson, 2021-07-27 The first volume of a titanic masterpiece of twentieth-century literature, named one of the best books of 2018 by The New York Times critics. Published to great acclaim as a two-part boxed set in 2018, *Anniversaries* is now available as two individual volumes. It is August 1967, and Gesine Cresspahl, born in Germany the year that Hitler came to power, a survivor of war, of Soviet occupation, and of East German Communism, has been living with her ten-year-old daughter, Marie, in New York City for six years. Mother and daughter find themselves caught up in the countless stories of the world around them: stories of work and school and their neighborhood, with its shifting and varied cast of characters, as well as the stories that Gesine reads in The New York Times every day—about Che Guevara, racial violence, the war in Vietnam, and the US elections to

come. Now, with Marie growing up, Gesine has decided to tell her daughter the story of her own childhood in a small north German town in the 1930s and '40s. Amid memories of Germany's criminal and disastrous past and the daily barrage of news from a world in disarray, Gesine, conscientious, self-scrutinizing, with a sharp sense of humor, struggles to describe what she has learned over the years and what she hopes to pass on to Marie. Marie, articulate, quizzical, with a perspective that is very much her own, has plenty of questions, too. Uwe Johnson's intimate portrait of a mother and daughter is also a panorama of past and present history and the world at large. Comparable in richness of invention and depth of feeling to Joyce's *Ulysses* and Proust's *In Search of Lost Time*, *Anniversaries* is one of the world's great novels.

why don t you want to take the subway in spanish: *Breaking the Silence* Nancy King, 2020-07-01 "Dad, there are things about my childhood I'd like to know." "I don't want to talk about it. It would only hurt your mother." "But Dad, you're the only one who can tell me." "I don't want to talk about it. It would only hurt your mother." Secrets. Lies. Silences. Stories told by parents and their families to protect themselves. A father who defends his wife despite her damage to their daughter's health and welfare. A mother, shielded by her husband, who perpetuates murderous acts of violence against the daughter, and keeps secret her husband's sexual "play" with the young girl. And yet ... Nancy King, determined to learn the truth of her childhood and the heartbreaking effects it has had on her adult life, uncovers the secrets. Sees through the lies. Breaks the silence. Empowered by the stories she told herself as a child, she learns to use stories as part of her work as a university professor teaching theater, drama, world literature, and creative expression. Gradually, with the help of body work and therapy, she finds her voice. Says no to abuse and abusers. Reclaims her self and life. Writes a memoir. She climbs mountains. Weaves tapestries. Writes books. Makes friends. Creates a meaningful life. This is her story.

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why don t you want to take the subway in spanish: *The Many Daughters of Afong Moy* Jamie Ford, 2022-08-02 AN INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER A Read with Jenna Today Show Book Club Pick The New York Times bestselling author of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* returns with a powerful exploration of the love that binds a family across the generations in “one of the most beautiful books of motherhood and what we pass on to those that come after us” (Jenna Bush Hager, Today). Dorothy Moy breaks her own heart for a living. As Washington’s former poet laureate, that’s how she describes channeling her dissociative episodes and mental health struggles into her art. But when her five-year-old daughter exhibits similar behavior and begins remembering things from the lives of their ancestors, Dorothy believes the past has come to haunt her. Fearing that her child is predestined to endure the same debilitating depression that has marked her own life, Dorothy seeks radical help. Through an experimental treatment designed to mitigate inherited trauma, Dorothy intimately connects with past generations of women in her family: Faye Moy, a nurse in China serving with the Flying Tigers; Zoe Moy, a student in England at a famous school with no rules; Lai King Moy, a girl quarantined in San Francisco during a plague epidemic; Greta Moy, a tech executive with a unique dating app; and Afong Moy, the first Chinese woman to set foot in America. As the painful recollections affect her present life, Dorothy discovers that trauma isn’t the only thing she’s inherited. A stranger is searching for her in each time period—a stranger who’s loved her through all of her genetic memories. Can Dorothy break the cycle of pain and abandonment to finally find peace for her daughter and love for herself? Or will she end up paying the ultimate price? “For Jamie Ford fans both old and new, *The Many Daughters of Afong Moy* is an unmitigated pleasure” (Christina Baker Kline, #1 New York Times bestselling author) and a lyrical love story unlike any other.

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why don t you want to take the subway in spanish: Right as Rain George Pelecanos, 2008-11-16 Derek Strange is a black ex-cop in Washington D.C. who now makes a living running his own private detective agency. He is hired to investigate the killing of an off-duty black policeman by a white police officer -- a killing that was supposedly accidental, but that has opened difficult questions about racism on the force. In the course of that investigation the white officer, Terry Quinn, becomes Strange's friend and then his partner. Together they try to uncover what really happened that night, when Quinn came upon a confusing and treacherous crime scene. Along the way they confront the kingpins of a flourishing drug trade and some of the most implacable, dead-eyed killers ever to grace the pages of a novel.

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room, and a withered black face receded into the darkness. The face belonged to a junkie named Tonio Morris. He was one of the many bottom-of-the-food-chain junkies, near death and too weak to cut out a space of their own on the second floor; later, when the packets were delivered to those with cash, they'd trade anything they had, anything they'd stolen that day, or any orifice on their bodies for some rock or powder. When PI Derek Strange is hired by Chris Wilson's mother to find out why her son, a black cop, was killed by a white cop, Terry Quinn, on a dark night in that no man's land, Strange figures that the answer is painfully clear: a typical case of mistaken identity, fueled by the assumptions and preconceptions of Quinn's innate racism. But what Strange finds is a tentative kinship with Quinn, who is desperate to proclaim himself color-blind. Kicked off the force and convinced that there's more to his own story, Quinn asks to join Strange in his investigation. As the two pry into the past, drifting through the neighborhoods both men have known all their lives, they find themselves enmeshed in a tangle of cold-blooded competition and heated personal enmity. Pelecanos generally has a light touch with the treacherous quagmire of -isms, veering only occasionally into sententious meanderings about the consequences of an economically and racially divided society. His wry humor, particularly in his descriptions of Earl and Ray, the heroin middlemen who bring the concept of white trash to a depressingly low level, leavens the novel's noir bleakness. And Strange himself is a compelling character: a middle-aged black man who has seen more of life's scallousness than he cares to admit, and whose jitteriness about personal commitment speaks volumes about his own expectations for happiness. A strong character and a good read--Pelecanos fans can settle in and look forward to Strange's next appearance. --Kelly Flynn

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