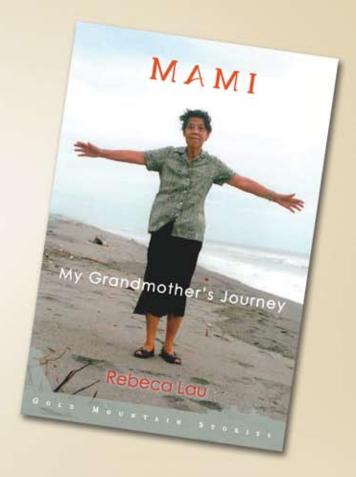
MAMI

My Grandmother's Journey

by Rebeca Lau

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n Mami: My Grandmother's Journey, Rebeca Lau invites us along as she returns to what is still "home" after almost two decades away. In Tapachula, on the west coast of Mexico bordering Guatemala, Mami reminisces about a family history going back to 1919 even as she cooks up a storm to ensure her granddaughter tastes the entirety of Chinese and Mexican delicacies familiar from her early years. The complexities of belonging and not belonging to both China and Mexico, in Rebeca's case also to Canada, become clearer to her as she also explores the multi-generational family compound built around a general store, talks with longtime Chinese families clustered nearby, and visits childhood haunts.

The result is a kind of adventure story, highly readable even as it embodies deeper meaning as it narrates the experiences of three generations of Chinese making their lives on the southern edge of Mexico.

-Dr. Jean Barman, professor emeritus of UBC.