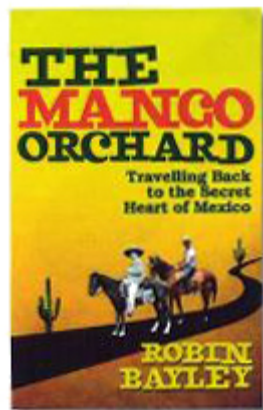


Robin Bayley's voyage to find his history as well as his home



The Mango Orchard by Robin Bayley. Preface, £12.99



AS A CHILD, Robin Bayley was enchanted by his grandmother's stories of her father's Mexican adventures: of bandits, wild jungle journeys, hidden bags of silver and a narrow escape from the bloody Mexican Revolution. Growing up, Robin knew that somewhere between his grandmother's fond memories

of her father Arthur and the roguish legends of Arturo she told, a real man must exist. Facing the same redundancy worries his great-grandfather did and carrying his old guidebook, Robin sets out into the heart of Latin America. Undaunted by the passage of time and a paucity of information, Robin seeks out the places where his great grandfather travelled and lived, determined to uncover his legacy. Along the road Robin encounters witches, drug dealers, a gun-toting Tasmanian Devil and an ex-Nazi diamond trader. He is threatened with deportation, offered the protection of Colombian guerrilla fighters and is comforted by the blessings of los santos. He falls in love with a beautiful Guatemalan girl with mystical powers and almost gives up his quest, until a sense of destiny drives him on to western Mexico and the discovery of much, much more than he had bargained for. This is the story of two parallel journeys, 100 years apart.