



VIRGIN TERRITORY
HOW I FOUND MY INNER GUADALUPE
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READING GROUP GUIDE & TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. The word virgin has a variety of definitions, including *fresh, new, unadulterated, native, uncaptured, unexplored*. How might these and other meanings apply literally and metaphorically to the journey described in *Virgin Territory*? Does the book depict more than one journey?
2. West Texas is referred to as having masculine geography, while the area of Mexico in which the book is set is described as feminine. What contrasts does the author draw between the two? What other attributes of the Mexican landscape and culture does she see as distinctly feminine? Do you think topography and climate affect the mental outlook of a population? If so, give examples.
3. *No da color* is a Mexican euphemism for failure to define oneself or take definitive action. What definitive actions



does the author take in redefining herself? What feminine icons or role models does she find helpful in doing this? Can you remember a specific instance when you have taken definitive action to identify yourself in a new way? Have feminine role models or icons been helpful to you? If so, which ones?

4. Human beings tend to form communities around common interests or necessities. These communities might be intentional, or they may evolve more informally. What are some of the communities to which the author belonged? In what ways were they supportive? What communities do you find supportive in your own experience? Is there a time when it is expedient to leave a community? What might precipitate such action?
5. The author refers to being “pissed off at patriarchy,” yet she dedicates *Virgin Territory* to her husband. To what is she alluding when she uses the term “patriarchy”? What particular traits or characteristics might be identified as “patriarchal?” Are these traits the exclusive province of men, or can women, as well, be patriarchal?
6. That Deity has an ancient feminine face and nature is a major theme throughout *Virgin Territory*. Does that face have different aspects? In what ways might finding the feminine face of God affect the way individuals deal with themselves and others? Would it change the way one might pray? In what ways might a more feminine spiritual ideal affect societies and nations?