

# TRAM NO 11

Silvia Cuevas-Morales

---

‘You Greek or Italian?’

A lady asks

‘Chilean-Australian, but living in Spain

I reply

And we exchange stories

Of our migrant lives

‘Michael St.’

The tram conductor

Through a faulty microphone blasts

In an Indian accent

For this is a multicultural land

Two young boys dance with walkmans

Skateboards at hand

A spiky blonde with Asian eyes

A Greek-Aussie with olive eyes

On Brunswick St.

Two women hug goodbye

Kissing in full view

Proud of their gay love

‘Gertrude St.’

Two ticket officers

Board the tram

A Vietnamese woman

An Ethiopian man

Things have changed in this great southern land

For we no longer have ‘trammies’

To help old ladies

And women with prams

A handsome koori man  
Jumps on at the next light  
A red, yellow & black T-shirt  
Reminding us of Australia's past  
For Terra Nullius was black  
Long before it became white

'Victoria Parade'  
And two blue-rinse ladies  
Dressed in white giggle  
Speaking with a thick Australian twang

And I think of Madrid's metro and feel 'happy as Larry'  
Riding my old Melbourne trams  
Now a tourist back home  
Enjoying the view  
The gentle rattle of the ride

As we slowly glide  
Past gardens and streets  
That once I felt mine  
And I already feel nostalgic  
For tomorrow I'm leaving  
I have a plane to catch



**Silvia Cuevas-Morales** was born in Chile and in 1975 migrated to Australia where she completed her tertiary studies and became an Australian citizen. In 1999 she migrated to Spain to live with her lover. Her poems have been published in Australia, USA and Spain.

*Copyright © 2003 Silvia Cuevas-Morales, All Rights Reserved*