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Malinche (Spanish Edition)



Synopsis

La princesa de la literatura latinoamericana, estÃ¡ de regreso con la historia el legendario amor entre el conquistador Hernan CortÃ©s y su intÃ©rprete, la india Malinalli. FonoLibro se enorgullece en presentar la nueva novela de la laureada escritora mexicana Laura Esquivel, Malinche, narrada por la laureada estrella mexicana Lucia MÃ©ndez. Cuando Malinalli conoce a CortÃ©s asume que se trata del propio Dios QuetzalcÃ¡atl que regresa a liberar a su pueblo. Los dos se enamoran apasionadamente, pero este amor pronto es destruido por la desmedida sed de conquista, poder y riqueza de CortÃ©s. A lo largo de la historia de MÃ©jico Malinalli/Malinche ha sido conocida por su traiciÃ³n al pueblo indio. Pero recientes investigaciones histÃ³ricas han mostrado que Malinalli fue la mediadora entre dos culturas, la hispÃ¡nica y la americana nativa; y entre dos lenguas, el espaÃ±ol y el nÃ¡huatl. Lo que Esquivel ha hecho aquÃ© es desafiar la mitologÃ¡ tradicional mediante un retrato muy temperamental del AdÃ¡n y la Eva de la cultura mestiza, CortÃ©s y Malinalli, con la caÃ±da del imperio azteca como telÃ³n de fondo. Contada con el lirismo de la tradiciÃ³n cantarina y pictÃ³rica del nÃ¡huatl, Laura Esquivel nos brinda un mito fundacional de la cultura hÃ¡bida del Nuevo Mundo y una extraordinaria historia de amor.

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Customer Reviews

Through the eyes of the historical native woman of the novel's title, Esquivel (Like Water for Chocolate) reveals the defeat and destruction of Montezuma's 16th-century Mexicas empire at the hands of Spanish conquistador HernÃ¡n CortÃ©s. Malinche, also called Malinalli, was sold into slavery as a child and later became "The Tongue," CortÃ©s's interpreter and loverâ "remembered

by history as a traitor for her contribution to the brutal Spanish triumph. In her lyrical but flawed fifth novel, Esquivel details richly imagined complications for a woman trapped between the ancient Mexicas civilization and the Spaniards. Esquivel revels in descriptions of the role of ancient gods in native life and Malinalli's theological musings on the similarities between her belief system and Christianity. But what the book offers in anthropological specificity, it lacks in narrative immediacy, even while Esquivel also imagines Cortés's point of view. The author also packs the arc of Malinalli's life into a relatively short novel: she bears Cortés an illegitimate son, marries another Spaniard and has a daughter before her sad demise. The resulting disjointed storytelling gives short shrift to this complex heroine, a woman whose role in Mexican history is controversial to this day.

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The best-selling author of *Like Water for Chocolate* (1992) here turns to Mexico's legendary historical figure of Malinche, Hernan Cortes' Indian interpreter and mistress, for another of her cultural explorations of Mexico's past. In Esquivel's reinterpretation of the story, the woman long regarded as a traitor is cast in a much more sympathetic light and is called Malinalli. Raised by her protective grandmother and given a deep appreciation for her people's customs, language, and religion, Malinalli eagerly awaits the arrival of Cortes, believing that he is the reincarnation of her tribe's benevolent and beloved god Quetzalcoatl and that he will put an end to the barbaric practice of human sacrifice practiced by their ruler, Montezuma. A gifted linguist, Malinalli soon picks up Spanish and becomes an invaluable interpreter, translating between Spanish and Nahuatl; she remains convinced that Cortes' interest and hers are one and the same: the liberation of her people. The two become lovers, but Malinalli grows disenchanted upon realizing that the wily Cortes is obsessed with gold and just as bloodthirsty as Montezuma. This novel is not as accessible as Esquivel's earlier work, and the quality of the prose is uneven, sometimes lyrical and sometimes stilted. Still, Esquivel's many fervent fans will be interested in her latest. Joanne Wilkinson
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A great story about the clash of two cultures where a slave made a difference to free herself. And in the end it comes down to how much are people willing to sacrifice for their beliefs? Although an argument could be made that the struggle was about which god to believe in but, for me, it was much more. When do you finally free yourself from the horror of the hateful and powerful? Neither

Cortes or Montezuma knew or cared about humanity. Greed and ego became their lot! For those who falsely believe that Malinche betrayed her people then so was Sacajawea from the Lewis & Clark expedition. Two great women headed for glory!!

Ordered this book for a class on Chicano Literature. It was somewhat difficult to follow at times, and the story will infuriate you, but it's a beautiful representation of the woman known as the first Chicano. It sparked awesome conversations about differences in cultures, sexual relationships, and plenty more!

very engaging and entertaining ... loved it

It was a long book but I liked the historic details and the comparisons of the two different cultures. I felt as though I knew Malinche

well pleased

good... Lucia Mendez tells the story

Now I understand the humanity between Cortez and Dona Marina. An interesting story almost written as a poem.

Good history.

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