



Swift as Desire

Laura Esquivel

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An enchanting, bittersweet story, touched with graphic earthiness and wit; Esquivel shows us how keeping secrets will always lead to unhappiness, and how communication is the key to love.

Instead of entering the world crying like other babies, Júbilo was born with a smile on his face. He had a gift for hearing what was in people's hearts, for listening to sand dunes sing and insects whisper. Even as a young boy, acting as an interpreter between his warring Mayan grandmother and his Spanish-speaking mother, he would translate words of spite into words of respect, so that their mutual hatred turned to love. When he grew up, he put his gift to good use in his job as a humble telegraph operator.

But now the telegraph lies abandoned, obsolete as a form of communication in the electronic age, and don Júbilo is on his deathbed, mute and estranged from his beloved wife, Lucha, who refuses to speak to him. What tragic event has come between two such sensuous, loving people to cause their seemingly irreparable rift? What mystery lies behind the death of the son no one ever mentions? Can their daughter bring reconciliation to her parents before it is too late, by acting as an interpreter between them, just as Júbilo used to do for other people?

Swift as Desire is Laura Esquivel's loving tribute to her father, who worked his own lifelong magic as a telegraph operator. In this enchanting, bittersweet story, touched with graphic earthiness and wit, she shows us how keeping secrets will always lead to unhappiness, and how communication is the key to love.

Swift as Desire Details

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From Reader Review Swift as Desire for online ebook

Vavita says

Not my type of book. I was expecting the magic of *Like Water For Chocolate*.

Laura Esquivel writes prose as it were poetry. It is musical. It flows and takes you away. The book was written wonderfully but it seemed to me that the story was only important to the writer only. Unfortunately, I didn't care about the characters in the book.

Denisse says

Trata sobre Júbilo, un hombre humilde, de buen corazón y con el don de alegrar y escuchar a las personas que lo rodean. Se enamora de Lucha, quien es bella, educada y rica. Ambos pasan por algunas situaciones durante su matrimonio, que los aleja poco a poco.

Un libro corto, pero lindo con grandes enseñanzas.

Martina Lucija says

Ova me pri? a duboko dirnula i potakla me da se opet iznova zapitam cijenim li dovoljno ono što imam. Život je kratak, trebali bismo se na to podsje?ati svaki dan iznova i živjeti otvorenih srca prema sebi i drugima. Od sveg srca preporu?am ovu divnu knjigu. <3

Sanja_Sanjalica says

Divna pri?a o važnosti rije?i, komunikacije i povezanosti svih nas...i ljubavi, naravno...i smetnji u komunikaciji koja nepovratno mijenja živote.

"Po njegovu mišljenju, misli su bi?a koja se ra?aju u trenutku kad ih netko pomisli. Sastoje se od valova energije i putuju prostorom, nevidljivi i ne?ujni...Jubilo je bio ?vrsto uvjeren kako sve što se nalazi u svemiru, od najmanjeg cvijeta pa do najdalje galaksije, ima dušu, osje?a, misli."

Sandy says

I just need to keep reminding myself that not everything is as wonderful as *Like Water For Chocolate*. But this book does have that same sort of magical realism that *Chocolate* had, and it did have many beautiful passages. I especially loved the beginning of Chapter 4, where we learn that "Love is a verb."

This is a tragic story of love and loss that will probably please most. It's not perfect, and it's not brilliant, and it's not *Chocolate*, but it's easily better than average.

Teresa says

My favorite passage: "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. . . . Millions and millions of presences of beings that have lived on Earth are in that dust. Floating there are the remains of Quetzalcoatl, Buddha, Gandhi, Christ".

GateGypsy says

There were some really interesting turns of phrase in this book. I really admire when a translation can be melodic, poetic, and powerful.

Many people have said that this book isn't as good as "Like Water for Chocolate," but I don't care to make a comparison. I liked this book. That's enough for me.

I think one thing about this book that threw me for a loop, though, was the part where Jùblio's grandmother, Itzel (a Mexican of Mayan descent), forms a dislike for her daughter-in-law based on the fact that she is "white" (a Mexican of Spanish descent.) I literally blinked and furrowed by brow. Pardon me? What a surprise! I guess race is very subjective. I wonder if Spaniards consider themselves "white"? I can say with some confidence that I doubt any Americans would say that a Mexican, whether Spanish or not, was caucasian. It sparked this whole racial debate in my head that went on for weeks after I'd finished the book. I think my Mohawk friend, Jessica, would be a good person to discuss that with!

Anyway, a fine read. I hope that the next reader is pleased with it, too.

Aleman says

Una historia contada en dos temporalidades distintas, la primera en presente, narrada en primera persona, y la segunda en pasado, narrada en tercera persona.

Aunque es una historia de amor, el protagonista es Júbilo y las personas que lo rodean, contando desde su nacimiento a su muerte.

Una trama triste, que te hace reflexionar acerca de que los factores externos siempre pueden dar "al traste" una relación amorosa independientemente de lo fuerte o intensa que ésta sea.

Al final como conclusión queda, que lo único que dejas al mundo es lo que la gente recuerda de ti y nada más.

Fernando Dez says

Después de tener lectura malas es un enorme gusto encontrarme con este tipo de historias.

Laura logra transportarme a un México de antes con su hermosa pluma.

El final es el punto débil del libro, pero vale la pena conocer la historia de Lucha y Júbilo.

Lo que más me gustó es la manera en la que juega con la nostalgia, el cómo los personas extrañan sus mejores años. Sin lugar a dudas uno de los mejores libros que he leído este año.

Araceli Rotaecche says

Al inicio me agradó la novela. Un tanto por el mensaje alrededor de la comunicación asertiva y otro tanto por las costumbres y tradiciones mayas de su abuela Itzel.

Me gustó el personaje de Júbilo, su optimismo y actitud ante la vida.

Pero el estilo narrativo de Laura Esquivel me pareció muy plano y conforme avancé, la lectura me pareció tediosa.

Por fortuna, es una novela muy corta...

Jess The Bookworm says

This novel is a record of the love story of Jublio and Lucha. Jublio is a telegraph operator who prides himself of being able to sense the true meaning behind people's words when he is passing on a message or interpreting words. Lucha is a girl from a rich family, who falls hopelessly in love with Jublio and marries him, despite the fact does not have as much money as she is used to having, and she struggles with having to make ends meet every month.

Their passion for one another helps them to make a happy marriage, until tragedy strikes. The question that then gets asked is: is passion enough to sustain a marriage? The book then shows the reader how important communication is in keeping a relationship alive.

I think that I had higher hopes for this one, just because it is written by Laura Esquivel, and Like Water for Chocolate is one of my all time favourite books. But this one didn't quite blow me away.

Erika Maria says

Un libro delicioso, no esperes como agua para chocolate, otro estilo de Esquivel

Ilia Johnson says

This is the 3rd book I've read by Laura Esquivel and I can't recommend her books enough. She has a way of giving ordinary things magical qualities. She also gives you insight in other cultures and their history. This story is about love, family, trust and how communication is vital to balance and harmony. I loved how she gave you both sides in Jubilo and Lucha relationships. It was very clear for the reader were things got lost in translation and caused a rift between this couple. I highly recommend this quick satisfying read ?

Aliyah says

Este libro demuestra que el amor es algo grande en la vida y también comunicación. Todavía deberá aprender una última lección: después de todo, el amor sigue viajando a la velocidad del deseo. Júblio y Lucha son personas muy diferente, pero en mi mente Júblio es una persona mas cariñoso y Lucha tiene un actitud muy mala. La historia de Júbilo, un hombre que nació con alegría y la capacidad de escuchar los verdaderos sentimientos de las personas no expresados en palabras. Este libro muestra que el peso de los sentimientos y el deseo son las fuerzas determinantes de la vida. Yo personalmente, me gusta este libro.

Célia Loureiro says

Tão Veloz como o Desejo é tão bom ou melhor do que o Como Água para Chocolate. Tem o seu surrealismo intrínseco. As personagens são inesquecíveis. Júbilo domina o código Morse e trabalha numa estação de telégrafo, onde passa mensagens convenientemente manipuladas. Júbilo tem um dom: o que perceber o mundo ao redor com uma clareza só sua. Deste modo, aplica a sua sensibilidade a favor do bem dos outros. É desprendido e benevolente, tem um espírito muito próprio que, de início estranhei, e depois adorei. E há a Lucha, Luz María, o amor da sua vida. E o modo como se separam e como só se reencontram quando ele está cingido à cama... sem poder mover-se... e o código Morse volta a ser o único meio de comunicação à sua disposição...
