



The Campaign

Carlos Fuentes

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Fuentes's latest masterpiece is a "superbly imagined" (Washington Post) story depicting one man's public and personal campaign of redemption. The adventures of the idealistic, revolutionary son of a wealthy Argentine rancher take him through the struggles and contradictions that have plagued and ultimately shaped Spanish America.

The Campaign Details

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Author : Carlos Fuentes

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Balthasar Bustos says

Carlos Fuentes at his very best. His prose is magnificent and epic like always, the story is completely ludicrous and wickedly inventive, and the main protagonist Balthasar Bustos is an intriguing hero/anti-hero. This novel is worth reading for the opening paragraph alone - I have rarely encountered better opening paragraphs - , but it's much more than that: it's a baroque chronicle of the Latin-American fight for independence (the legendary freedom fighter San Martín makes a short appearance). The only possible minor flaw is that, like always with Fuentes, the novel is flood with ideas and intellectual references - in this case most prominently the great French thinker Rousseau - which maybe slow the story down a little bit. But it's also filled with wonderful characters - Bathasar Bustos father, for example, a Faulknerian patriarch, who lives in the pampa amongst the gauchos; or Miguel Lanza, a guerillero who reminded me of Che Guevara; or Anselmo Quintana, a rebel priest who has been excommunicated and has fathered dozens of children. And it's all written in prose (I can't emphasize this enough) that hypnotizes you from the first sentence to the last one. Fuentes was a great, and vastly underrated writer; and this is one of his masterpieces.

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amin akbari says

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Maria Thomarey says

Το πρ?το βιβλ?ο του που δι?βασα πριν πολλ? χρ?νια . Και μαγε?τηκα

Claris Sarkissian says

Sahar says

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Ingrid M. says

"Don't let yourself be dazzled and divided by a single idea." Baltasar Bustos' narrow, singularly-minded focus on liberty through equality takes him from Argentina to Venezuela, Chile, Peru and Mexico during a time of extreme political upheaval. The first half of the book hardly engaged me, but I'm glad I'm a glutton for punishment since I didn't really reap the rewards of the book till the second half. Even then I will admit most of the philosophical ideology went over my head, but what I really got out of the book was Bustos' personal journey and coming-of-age. Here is the story of a young man driven by political ideals and romantic notions of equality, justice and freedom...who over the course of a decade, and through fierce violence and intense reflection, comes to know himself even better. He faces man's eternal enemy: himself. So with that ending, I'm glad I pushed myself to finish it so I can finally stop nursing it.

PS: The ending alone is worth the read.

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Primer libro del autor que he leído y ha sido increíble, debo decir que al no identificarme cien por ciento con un personaje en particular me sentí como real espectadora y la facilidad de mezclar historia de su país con ficción ha sido de mi total agrado. Sonará mal, pero a los primeros libros de Isabel Allende fue en lo que me hizo pensar, una comodidad inusual, mi primer favorito del año.

Nora says

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Nosemonkey says

Confusing at times, mostly due to the unfamiliarity of the period and the unclear division between fact and fiction (how many of these characters are historical, how many made up? No idea...) - but readable. Has sparked a vague interest in Latin American independence that I may return to. Also reminds me to get back to *Terra Nostra*, the first Fuentes book I picked up, and which I've repeatedly given up on in utter confusion, despite enjoying it.

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Saleh Rostami says

Hussein Dehghani says

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Calzean says

A difficult book to read and understand - full of characters, events and philosophy which requires a greater intellect than I hold. It still had some memorable moments covering rebellion, be careful what you wish for, that there are connections everywhere, the need for liberty before equality and man's greed. It focuses on the decade of the independence struggles from 1810 to 1820, spanning Argentina to Mexico, with stops in Peru, Chile and Venezuela.

ahmad says

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