



El faro

Paco Roca

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Francisco es un joven soldado republicano que, herido, trata de escapar de la guerra civil. En su huida llegará a un lugar donde no existen bandos ni órdenes, sólo el mar y la compañía del farero...

Telmo, el farero, le guiará en un viaje iniciático a través de los clásicos de la aventura. Gracias a Ulises, Gulliver o Simbad, Francisco descubrirá otros mundos que no conocía...

El Faro es un homenaje de Paco Roca a las aventuras de su infancia, un canto a favor de la libertad y la imaginación.

Nueva edición de esta personal obra de Paco Roca que incluye material extra con dibujos a lápiz, fotos, diseños, bocetos..., entre otras imágenes sobre la génesis de la obra, el prólogo de un farero y un epílogo del autor.

El faro Details

Date : Published 2009 by Astiberri (first published April 2004)

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Author : Paco Roca

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From Reader Review El faro for online ebook

Mark Brown says

An interesting story that was played out too quickly.

I felt like the end came up so suddenly and unexpectedly that it dashed my hopes of Moby Dick and Telmo healing their friendship. Telmo's light went out.

David Schaafsma says

A longish short comics story by Roca (Wrinkles), somewhat inspired by Borges's version of "The Tale of Two Dreamers" from A Thousand and One Nights. Francisco is eighteen, shell-shocked, fighting for the Republican guard during the Spanish Civil War. He deserts, becomes injured, and wakes up in an old lighthouse, tended by Telmo, an old lighthouse keeper, without politics, but joyful and positive where the boy is cynical and withdrawn.

The old man survives by picking up stuff that washes ashore from shipwrecks. He quotes Moby Dick, and kiddingly calls the young man that. One thing becomes clear: the old man takes care of the lighthouse, but there is no bulb, hasn't been one for years. And he speaks of an island that he wants to return to, so the two of them build a boat. The young man recovers, with the old man's help

The drawing is simple and really well done. The story is light and sweet, maybe 3.5, but bumped up for the essay about the story written by the author, which was really interesting. The story was originally published in 2005, now in a slightly revised English translation. A sea story, a war story, and a story about how we help each other keep going.

Heather says

A graphic novel that has been translated from Spanish to English, it tells the story of a young boy who has unfortunately ended up being a part of the Republicans during the Spanish Civil War, in order to impress a girl, and ends up injured at an old lighthouse. There he meets Telmo, the owner of the lighthouse, who tells him stories of famous sea travelers and his own past. All the while, the Civil War continues and is always present in the background of the story.

I quite enjoyed this graphic novel. It was like a lighthearted story with darker tones underneath it, as most historical graphic novels end up being like. I definitely would not mind hanging out in a lighthouse all day listening to jolly Telmo recount stories. The novel itself is very quick and gives you a peek into what it was like living during the Spanish Civil War, which not many people, myself included despite how much I love history. The author, Paco Roca, does state that this book was meant to be a bit more relaxed compared to his previous work but it still pricked a little at my heart strings.

Definitely pick this up if you want a quick read!

Derek Royal says

A nice short work, more akin to a novella than a short story. I first discovered Roca last year through the Spanish Fever anthology from Fantagraphics, and then his Wrinkles which came out about the same time. I like his style, both the art and the storytelling. The Lighthouse might come off as pat to some, but I think it's a sweet story.

Bruce Gargoyle says

I received a copy of this title from the publisher via Netgalley.

Ten Second Synopsis:

When a young soldier takes refuge in a lighthouse, he learns some valuable lessons from the eccentric lighthouse keeper.

The underlying dark themes of war and violence are reflected in the monochromatic art in The Lighthouse. The story opens on the escape attempt of Francisco, a young soldier who is offered sanctuary by elderly but cheerful Telmo, the keeper of a lighthouse. As Francisco learns more about the lighthouse and its workings, and assists Telmo in building a boat from the flotsam that washes up on the beach, he begins to heal from his experiences and question his commitment to his cause. When events take an unexpected turn for Francisco later in the story, he is forced to take his fate into his own hands and decide what kind of life he wants to lead.

The Lighthouse deals with the sort of choices that, when made, define a life. Telmo has made his choices in life and is content to keep the lighthouse in order in anticipation for the day when the government will send a new bulb to restore the lighthouse to full function. Francisco, who was previously unwavering in his commitment to his ideals, begins to think for himself under Telmo's fanciful guidance.

This is not an overly long read, but it certainly packs a punch and will generate discussion about loyalties to duty and to self, and the sacrifices that individuals make to attain their goals. This would be an interesting inclusion in a secondary or university course focusing on ethics.

Sooraya Evans says

Beautiful piece of work.

An 18-year old rifleman with a dull perspective on life crosses path with an eccentric fisherman. As their friendship develops, the young man becomes more and more optimistic right up to the twist at the end.

Sylvester says

Wonderful art, and a rather wistful story.

Sandra says

3.5.Lectura del club de lectura como siempre este autor es un acierto nunca te defrauda te hace reflexionar.

Emily says

3.5 stars

Short and sweet story of a lighthouse keeper restoring hope to a lost soldier. I liked the limited palette for the artwork.

pierlapo quimby says

Carino e con un paio di ottime trovate.

Però ora, caro Paco, Paquito, Paquino bello, col talento che ti ritrovi, non ti far ingolosire dalle fiabette, dalle storielline con ambientazioncine giuste, di quelle che ci metti un po' di questo e un po' di quello, che non si sbaglia mai, tipo il vecchio marinaio nel faro dimenticato, l'imberbe soldatino che fugge dalla guerra e vi trova riparo, l'isola che non c'è, perché si fa presto, poi, in queste vicende marinare, a venir trascinati dalla risacca nel mare aperto delle vuote banalità a fumetti.

Laura says

We are touched by major events in our lives, and the lives of our country. The Spanish Civil War seems to have touched artists and cartoonists of Spain like nothing in the US, save, perhaps WWII.

This is a story of one soldier, based on one the cartoonist knew, who was on the losing side, and wanted to escape to France. Along the way he meets an old light house keeper who tells him tales of an island that they must sail to, and so together, as a way of healing, they build a ship to take them there.

It is a quiet tale, with the underpinnings of the war not too far away. Beautifully illustrated, and sad, or perhaps not sad, depending on how you interpret it.

Recommend this for those who want to read graphic novels from non-Americans, and see how others tell stories.

Thanks to NetGalley for making this book available for an honest review.

VAle says

preso in biblioteca

Ogni volta che leggo qualcosa di Roca non riesco a evitare confronti con Rughe. E questo penalizza non poco il mio giudizio: la profondità emotiva di Rughe (anche solo per la vicinanza con vicende personali) difficilmente può essere avvicinata.

Tenendo conto di questo, Il faro si dimostra una buona prova, raccontando impeccabilmente (non una tavola di troppo, non una in difetto) una fiaba sul valore del sogno e regalandoci (ancora una volta) una piccola finestra sulla storia recente spagnola, questa volta in piena Guerra civile. Roca ha talento.

Jeimy says

A republican soldier is being gunned down by fascists. He is hurt and stumbles his way to a majestic lighthouse. He passes out, has vivid dreams, and wakes inside the lighthouse to find that his wounds have been tended. Setting out to the beach he meets Telmo, the lighthouse's keeper. The older man nicknames the soldier Moby Dick and offers him sanctuary while he recuperates. As the two build a boat using scavenged materials from the sea, their friendship develops.

While I would rate the story four-stars, the author's note at the end, "The Eternal Rewrite," earns this book its five-star review. Buy it, read it, share it.

MonicaEmme says

Come ci sono rimasta male ?

Travis Duke says

A touching short story about a young solider feeling jaded and hopeless at the end of Spanish war. He finds refuge at a lighthouse where he finds an older man with a different outlook on life. The art is simple yet beautiful and matches the story wonderfully. Although it is a quick read it has depth and is very touching. I would recommend it to anyone
