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With only her exotic beauty, seductive innocence, pride, and fiery spirit, Leonie came from the provinces to find her future in Paris. From the shame of music halls, she rose to international fame singing songs of love and longing, straight from the heart. From Paris to the Cote d'Azur, from New York to Brazil, from Cuba to Cairo, she moved in a dazzling world of money, passion, and power--a world darkened only by the relentlessly hunger of one man's obsession--a man determined to possess her . . . a man who could never lover her, never let her go

Leonie Details

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Author : Elizabeth Adler

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From Reader Review Leonie for online ebook

Sylvia Abrams says

I expected a sweeping historical saga based on the description on BookBub. Instead I found a plot full of coincidences and historical inaccuracies. While the premise of young beautiful country girl goes to Paris and falls prey to wealthy duc is trite in itself, making the duc madly obsessed with Leonie over a life time is what drives the plot to extremes. Adler also conveniently kills off male characters when they no longer move the plot along. Yet, there are sections that engage the reader, especially those around the hidden child living in Brazil. Nevertheless, Adler really should have researched the period, 1890-1919, more thoroughly. Her characters drive cars too fast for the period, talk on telephones without difficulty and ride in elevators without operators, only a few examples of the anachronisms in this “cream puff” novel.

Bani M says

Tries to aim some place between Barbara Taylor Bradford, Judith Krantz's bigger novels, and Colleen McCullough's *The Thorn Birds*. This is a big novel that spans two generations. The best of the writing is probably in the enticing blurb, the actual book's writing is less than arresting. As for the heroine, Leonie, if there was a Mary Sue checklist I'm pretty sure her characteristics would fill it out rather nicely. But you could say the same for most heroines in this genre at the time. The plot goes to really stupid, unbelievably wasteful places. So why did I keep reading? Well to Leonie's credit the plot also goes to interesting and unexpected places in the last half. I was more touched by Leonie's daughter's story. I would give it a 3 or 4 but it only makes up a small portion of the book. That said- that small portion held an impressive, gut-wrenching plot twist. Only to end up frustrating me all the more by ending right when it was starting to show some real potential. This happens multiple times in the novel actually, an interesting plot emerges but quickly submerges and frustrates me. There is another reason why I kept reading though- that being the overarching and unusual (though sadly under realized) plot outlined in that blurb I mentioned. A heroine who has multiple lovers at different points in life- but one of those lovers is recurring, won't leave her alone, and ends up destroying himself and those around the both of them with his obsession. I love love/hate relationships, dysfunctional and highly dramatic twisting, turning plots courtesy of crafty evil geniuses. But that's not quite what I found here, more like what I had imposed upon the book and hoped- in vain- would unfurl. My delusions aside, there was other potential here. If I could rewire this novel I would've cut out some of Leonie's go-nowhere trysts and penchant for catatonic do-nothing periods and made both she and Monsieur more connected. Then I would have taken Leonie's daughter- who is far more interesting than her mother- gave her her own book, and fleshed out her end-all-be-all relationship that is little more than alluded to at the end. Even though this book mostly bombed, it at least tries to bring some unpredictable (perhaps even unsafe, given the time period) ideas to the table.

John Mcconahey says

Having unintentionally first read “Peach,” the sequel to this book, before discovering “Leonie,” I was concerned that would somehow diminish my enjoyment of Adler’s captivating style of prose. It did not.

Leonie, the illegitimate child of an itinerant Egyptian circus performer, leaves the provinces for 1906 Paris at

age 16 following the death of her mother. Her only paternal link was a small statue given to her by her unknown father – the goddess Sekhmet, Egyptian protector of pharaohs. Finding work in a lingerie shop she is befriended by a society femme and Leonie's beauty creates opportunity for her. After her sorrowful heartbreaking relationship with a German industrialist, she becomes the mistress of and extremely wealthy Frenchman who considers her a possession rather than a lover. Her subsequent rebellion results in her own illegitimate daughter and her Machiavellian lover poses a continuing threat to the safety of the child. Primary settings are in France and Brazil.

Eventually, her vocal talent gives her fame, wealth, but will she find the love she desperately seeks? This was a captivating novel with character development equaling "Peach" and deserves its spot on my favorites list.

MomToKippy says

This is vintage Adler. It has everything I love about her writing that has been missing in her most recent novels. I went in search of her older books thinking I had read almost everything she wrote but found this and Peach. I am glad I found it and read it. Adler combines stories of love and mystery and transports the reader to exotic locales and I always feel like I have experienced these places first hand. The characters come alive, the imagery is bountiful and the plot keeps you hooked. Her most recent novels with the PI named Mac are just very flat. They feel almost as if they were written by someone else. Most of her books are exquisite though and this one did not disappoint. I can recommend all Adler's books that follow this theme of romantic mystery set in exotic locations except for the most recent few. I hope the recent trend is just a short lived phase.

Barbra says

I think this is the other title of Leonie.

Back Cover Blurb:

Leoni is born into a world of poverty and hardship, until her exotic beauty and her fighting spirit lead her to a very different life of wealth and luxury. As mistress of the ruthless and wealthy Duc de Courmont, she craves love, but he craves her, needs her, is obsessed by her.

Yeime says

okay now this book left me speechless.. i liked how it started ,and how they continue her story was brilliant. I enjoyed reading how much leonie changed i like how the writer shows how much she had to mature at 17. how different times those were it was a fascinating story.

Rosie says

I read it at least 20 years ago. One of my favorites!

Kari Kaz says

I read this book years ago and I still remember it quite clearly. The narrative, the setting was beautiful. The second book is "Peach", but I remember liking this one more. Definately recommend.

Ana Luisa Henriques says

Um livro intenso e com uma complexidade interessante, como não esperava de Elizabeth Adler. Não percam!

Uma história intensa que se desenvolve por camadas, com personagens autênticos e que se vão desenvolvendo ao longo da história com veracidade e com a força de uma história ímpar.

A jovem Léonie cresce intensamente ao longo do livro e passa a ser uma força da natureza mas tem de fazer escolhas difíceis por causa da relação com Monsieur e da crueldade de que este é capaz. Ambas as personagens estão muito bem construídas e a família no Brasil e a forma como se ligam também é bastante autêntica e feliz.

O final é assombroso e eu não conseguia imaginar uma forma melhor de terminar esta história.

FeliciaKaren says

beware terrible ending.It doesn't have HEA

Sonia Cristina says

[o facto de Léonie ter tido uma filha e entregá-la para a proteger de Monsieur (hide spoiler)]

Bonita Adair says

She wrote filling with the historical romance set in France. Leonie came from an impoverished child from circus to mistress of the wealthy man.

Kate says

One of my most favorite books - read and reread many times. Beach reading page turner.

Vanessa Montês says

(...)

Imensas personagens passam na vida de Léonie e acabamos por as adorar a todos. Apesar do azar de ter sido a escolhida do duque, Léonie também conhecera muito gente que a adorava e que estavam dispostos a fazer tudo por ela. Amigas desde a altura do cabaret, homens que nela encontraram a sua musa... Léonie teve uma vida preenchida e apesar de ter passado por imensas dificuldades, aproveitava as alegrias ao máximo.

Foi um livro que me surpreendeu e me prendeu. Gostei imenso!

Opinião em <http://blocoodedevaneios.blogspot.pt/2...>

Mariazita says

Uma história de um amor obsessivo que vai mudar a vida da jovem Léonie e do poderoso Duc de Courmont. Muito interessante, gostei de como a autora desenvolveu todo este enredo de glamour e romance.

Apenas achei que havia muitos detalhes que poderiam não ter existido, mas Elizabeth Adler adora descrever o luxo e a riqueza das suas personagens, para mim menos tinha sido melhor.

Mas é um livro fascinante com um final surpreendente para todas as personagens.
