



Valentina Goldman's Immaculate Confusion

Marisol Murano

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Since her arrival in the United States from Venezuela, Valentina Goldman isn't exactly living the American Dream. She's living the American Nightmare. Her late husband, Max, has left her a young widow, a step-daughter whom Valentina didn't want, and a bi-polar ex-wife. And oh, having given up her dream job in New York, Valentina is also unemployed in Arizona. Part "Bridget Jones Diary," part "Modern Family," "Valentina Goldman's Immaculate Confusion" is the story of a woman trying to get a handle on her whacky life in America. In breathless, blog-like snippets, Valentina compares her own story with that of her eccentric sister, Azucena, who has bizarre troubles of her own down in the tropics. "Valentina Goldman's Immaculate Confusion" is a funny and moving story about what happens when a passionate South American woman moves to the USA and, like so many of us, ends up with a life she never imagined.

Valentina Goldman's Immaculate Confusion Details

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Author : Marisol Murano

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From Reader Review Valentina Goldman's Immaculate Confusion for online ebook

Angela says

Digame. Tell me. About your life, about my life, about everything.

In Marisol Murano's second novel, *Valentina Goldman's Immaculate Confusion*, the reader is thrust into a non-linear narrative told from the first-person point-of-view of Valentina, a Venezuelan immigrant, daughter of two psychologists, sister of a workaholic magazine editor in Caracas, wife of Max Goldman and stepmother of Emily Goldman, to whom the narrative is directed.

The story is held together with the unanswered question of what happened to Max Goldman and Valentina's unfolding account of her childhood in Venezuela and her adulthood in the United States and abroad. Told with the boldness of South American magic realism and the straightforwardness of North American humor, Murano achieves an engaging account of the inescapable journey of the human heart.

South American stories of children being abducted in the mall and uncles playing volleyball with a yellow frog and fathers treating roosters with more respect than their wives are interspersed with North American tales of being the wife of a Frenchman in New Orleans and the quest to be a Jackie O impersonator for the Museum of Modern Art and the realization that one can never escape from one's self no matter how many times one may change careers, names, or spouses.

An entertaining story told in English though flavored with phrases in Spanish and French, *Valentina's Immaculate Confusion* ultimately isn't immaculate or confusing but refreshingly messy with all of its truthfulness.

*I received a copy of this book from the publisher for an unbiased review.

Alaina Maxam says

really enjoyed this book. it is very well written and a hard to put down book

Cary Morton says

You can read my complete and honest review here: <http://wp.me/p37Zro-11B>

Lillian says

Looking forward to reading.

Morgan says

I received this book from a third party to review:

This book was very slow to start, and never picked up. After reading half the book in two months I have put it down.

While the author tries to entertain with quick stories, they leave the reader asking questions constantly. #1 question being, "Why is she telling these stories?"

I had high hopes for this book because it looked clever and cute. I sorry to say I was highly disappointed.

Emily says

A funny and quirky mix of anecdotes and life lessons. This is imbued with such a distinct personality -- one that begs you to laugh at nearly every page.

Jenee Rager says

After my devastating loss in the goodreads giveaway I was contacted by the publisher and offered a copy of this book to review. A few weeks later I received a signed copy, that I couldn't wait to devour. However, that generous offer has nothing to do with my review.

I loved this book. My only complaint, is that I'm afraid with the cutesy title and cover, many readers are going to look at this book and dismiss it as a simple, fun, chick-lit book when it is so much more. I admittedly read the synopsis and assumed it was just going to be a fun little book, and was shocked to find out it wasn't.

The book as written as sort of a letter to Valentina's step daughter after the death/suicide of her father. It delves into Valentina's own upbringing in Venezuela and her life after immigrating to the United States. There were parts that made me laugh out loud, parts that made me tear up. There was just so much explored in these pages, marriage, divorce, poverty, assimilation, kidnapping, death, and even an illusion to incest, and teenage pregnancy. Any other author could have left you feeling depressed or overwhelmed by the contents she presented but I feel that Marisol Murano did a wonderful job, drawing you in and making you care about her characters. I'm so glad I got the opportunity to read this book.

Meg - A Bookish Affair says

3.5 stars. Sometimes you come across a book that makes you say, hey, I really wish that I could write like this. Murano gives Valentina, the main character in this book a great voice. It really feels like Valentina is a person that you might really come across in real life. Better yet, she feels like a person that you would want

to meet and get to know in real life!

The entire book is based on Valentina, a Venezuelan immigrant, telling her American step-daughter, Emily about her life and the series of events, some stranger than others. The writing style and the short little chapter kept me engaged the whole time. I really wanted to see how Valentina ended up with this life and these children that she never really expected. The tone is very conversational, which also made me really like Valentina even more.

The book's story is not told sequentially, which makes it really hard to follow at some points. It took a bit of re-reading for me to figure out where I was in the story. I wished that the story had been a little more chronological. That being said, since I was enjoying the story that much, I didn't mind the flipping back and forth but wanted to mention it for anyone that does take issue with that sort of thing.

There is also a sort of cliffhanger at the end of the book, which makes me wonder: will there be a sequel? It also left me wondering what happened.

I had never heard of Murano before I got the opportunity to read this book. Now I really want to go back and read her other books because I loved the writing in this book so much!

Rob Simon says

A VERY funny book about a passionate woman from South America who moves to the USA and inherits a life she never imagined.

JeanBookNerd says

Marisol Murano's Valentina Goldman's Immaculate Confusion is the funny and touching story of a woman from South American who moves to the United States in hopes of living the American Dream. For Valentina, her dream quickly becomes a nightmare. After becoming a young widow and is left to take care of a step-daughter she's never expected, she has to leave her dream job in New York to live in Arizona.

The entire book is about Valentina telling her American step-daughter, Emily, about her crazy life. Author Marisol's approach on writing this story is quite unique. The chapters are short, sort of like a blog entry for Valentina. This method managed to keep me engaged throughout. Although the chapters were not in chronological order, Marisol's writing style allowed me to keep the timeline intact.

Each chapter presented hilarious stories that most readers can relate to. Valentina's move to the United States is an interesting and entertaining experience. Marisol's writing style allows capturing the feeling of discovering something new and readers are able to place themselves in Valentina's shoes and receive the same experience as she. There is a cliffhanger at the end so it only makes me wonder if a sequel is in the works. Valentina Goldman's Immaculate Confusion possesses all the elements that make a story unforgettable. It is smart, cunning, amusing, and highly entertaining.

Hannah says

First off, I won this book on Goodreads' FirstReads giveaway.

I liked the book alot. It was very fast paced and entertaining. The only issue I had with it was that in some places it did not seem to have a smooth transition from one section to the next.

Good book though!
