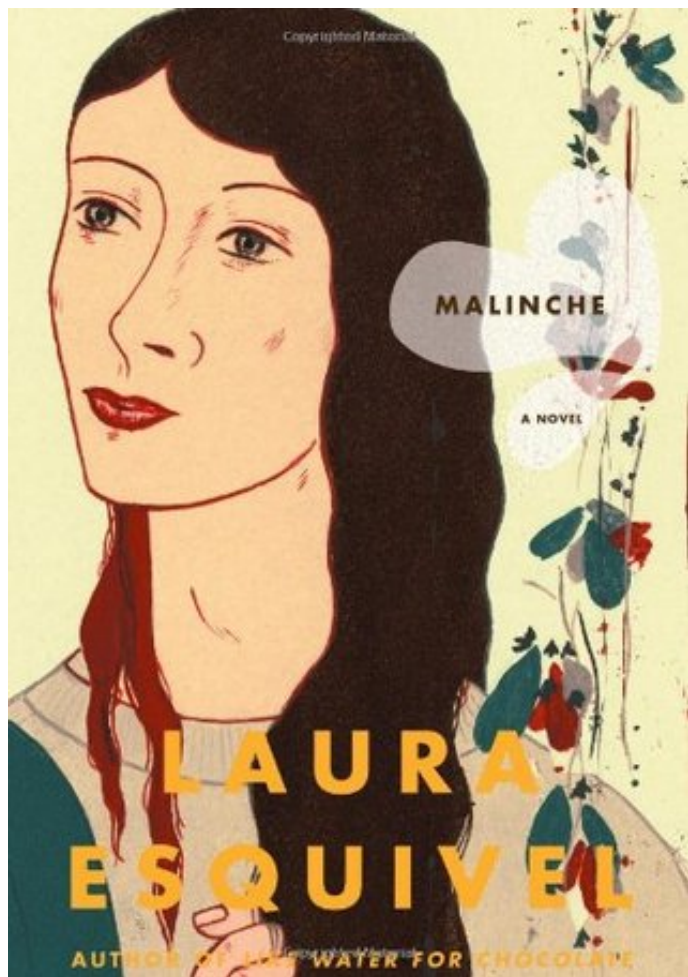


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**Laura Esquivel**

**Malinche**



Title: Malinche

Author: Laura Esquivel

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## Description

From the international bestselling author of *Like Water for Chocolate* comes an extraordinary new historical novel about a passionate and tragic love affair during the conquest of the Aztecs.

## Insightful reviews

Diana Andrea: «Pensó en los momentos en que la boca de Cortés y su boca fueron una sola boca y el pensamiento de Cortés y su lengua una sola idea, un universo nuevo. La lengua los había unido y la lengua los separaba. La lengua era la culpable de todo. Malinalli había destruido el imperio de Moctezuma con su lengua. Gracias a sus palabras, Cortés se había hecho con aliados que aseguraron su conquista. Decidió entonces castigar el instrumento que había creado ese universo.» Laura Esquivel

No puedo decir que me encantó esta novela, pero estuvo bien. Pienso que la autora hizo un buen trabajo al plasmar los sentimientos, las emociones, los miedos, los anhelos y las inquietudes de Malinalli de manera sincera y acertada. Nos ofrece una perspectiva diferente y única de la vida de la tan conocida Malinche de una manera que rara vez se puede encontrar en otros textos.

Stacy: The main character's relationship with nature, elements and her gods was very beautiful. This novel felt like a healing of history, especially heightened for Mexicans, I'm sure. It shifts the brutal Spanish domination of the American peoples and lands perspective to a more peaceful blending of cultures where not every native was 'conquered', they had a role that shaped history too.

That being said, I just wasn't into the book all that much. It saddened and therefore tired me to read about female brutality again and again. The line between rape and consensual sex was very thin. Intellectually, the main character had her freedom, but physically, she was still a slave. I also had a hard time connecting with all the gods/godesses, probably because I their names didn't stick in my brain and I haven't been exposed to them before :) I squealed with delight when my Mexican boyfriend read the names out loud to me.

Ultimately, though the "we are all one" message of the book was beautifully written.

Laura: Malinche is the story of the indigenous woman, Malinalli, who had a relationship with Hernan Cortes when the Spanish conquered Mexico. Her story is somewhat similar to that of Pocahontas with John Smith in the U.S. I had always understood Malinche from common myth to be seen as a traitor -- someone who was sleeping with the enemy and selling off her people's secrets. This book shows that it was not that way at all. Rather than standing as a symbol of betrayal, Malinche instead becomes the root of modern Mexico today -- a Mexico that must find a way to integrate its mixed history of indigenous and Spanish roots, the conquered and the conquerors. Laura Esquivel's writing is absolutely beautiful and lyrical. This book is part history,

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part spirituality. This book helped me to understand not only more of Mexican history but more of Mexico's very rich and complicated history of spirituality and religion.

Célia: Parti com este livro com baixas expectativas, confesso. As opiniões que li não eram propriamente muito entusiásticas, por isso peguei neste livro com um pé atrás. Às vezes acontece a minha opinião não condizer com a da maioria, mas neste caso acabei mesmo por não gostar muito do livro. Conhecia vagamente a personagem de Malinalli de Aztec, de Gary Jennings (que em Portugal foi publicado em dois volumes, Orgulho Asteca e Sangue Asteca); sabia que tinha sido a intérprete de Córtez aquando da chegada do explorador espanhol ao território que hoje é o México, que tinha tido um papel primary na comunicação entre exploradores e indígenas, e que, mais tarde, tinha acabado por ter uma relação com Córtez. Mas não sabia mais, e esperava que depois de ler este livro ficar um pouco mais elucidada sobre quem foi esta personagem. Laura Esquivel optou por uma abordagem espiritual e deífica em relação a Malinalli e aos eventos históricos em que esteve presente. Na verdade, os deuses e a influência que estes tinham nas pessoas e no seu destino são um dos temas centrais desta história, porque a sua personagem crucial é crente, tal como as outras pessoas do seu povo. A conciliação dessa imagem dos vários deuses com o Deus único trazido pelos espanhóis é também um desafio que ajuda a definir a personagem. Não se espere um relato muito detalhado sobre a chegada dos espanhóis a terras mexicanas; não sei até que ponto a reconstituição histórica é fiel, porque é um assunto sobre o qual sei muito pouco, mas de qualquer modo acaba por ser apenas uma contextualização e está longe de ser o centro do livro. Acho que foi esta a minha maior desilusão: esperava um relato com mais pendor histórico e menos esotérico. A linha temporal algo confusa também não ajuda; há constantes saltos no tempo, em que a personagem primary relata episódios da sua infância, que o leitor demora a situar. Mas houve coisas de que até gostei: a escrita de Laura Esquivel é agradável e algumas passagens são bonitas; a relação entre Malinalli e Córtez não foi romanceada e, por isso, torna-se mais realista. No cômputo geral, não foi um livro que recordarei por muito tempo. Tem os seus pontos de interesse, mas as minhas expectativas e o meu gosto pessoal fizeram com que esta fosse uma leitura pouco memorável.

Mira, a escriba: Tudo começa com o nascimento de Malinalli, que nos abrirá as portas para o Novo Mundo. Com ela, conhecemos os deuses mexicanos, as pessoas e o seu dia a dia. Assim, descobrimos as grandes diferenças culturais entre a Europa e a América. Sabemos sempre o que Malinalli sente enquanto os espanhóis invadem a sua terra e a obrigam a ser sua tradutora, e assistimos á evolução da menina inocente para uma mulher quando o seu povo é massacrado. Em cada capítulo, a autora começa com uma ideia e desenvolve-a, o que por vezes torna o texto confuso com tantas ideias. As descrições são ricas, ao contrário dos desenhos que encontramos ao longo do livro, que são simples e muito feios. Embora nem sempre tivesse vontade de ler por causa dos longos textos sobre espiritualidade, foi uma leitura enriquecedora!

Jori Richardson: The Aztec tradition is one in every of my favorites to study, yet unfortunately, no longer that many works of fiction are written on them. So, i used to be elated to discover this e-book fresh for under \$2 at Border's. The tale makes a speciality of the conquistadors', led via Cortes, destruction the Aztec's manner of life. Malinalli is a gorgeous younger lady within the Aztec urban of Tenochtitlan. Cortes is attracted to her, and the 2 fall in love. However, Malinalli

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turns into torn among her lover and her humans while she starts off to achieve that Cortes cares little for conserving their means of life. The plot is an grand one - and i've usually wanted that background knew extra approximately this tragic romance, in line with a real story. However, i used to be very disenchanted by means of this book. The language used to be heavy and weighed down, very stiff and distant. there has been consistent speak of the Aztec deities and gods. I remember that those have been a prominent, traditionally exact a part of their lives, yet they have been pointed out everywhere. through the tip of the book, I felt that I knew their gods much better than I knew the most personality herself. Scenes that may were fascinating or attention-grabbing have been not anything yet dull and tedious because of Esquivel's toneless writing style. And of course, if a author can't even supply their reader an idea of what a personality is like - she can't write a passionate love story. And no - she didn't. i used to be by no means sympathetic in the direction of Cortes and Malinalli's meant romance at all. they didn't even appear to be a great deal in love at all. whilst Malinalli is pressured to marry one other man, I felt no disappointment for her. Also, their "romance" starts with Cortes raping the most character. Malinalli thinks to herself later approximately Cortes "forcing himself on her." Cortes doesn't ask, and the publication particularly says that he didn't care that he was once hurting her or if she didn't wish to. This seems like rape to me. From then on, Malinalli is particularly drawn to Cortes, they usually develop into lovers. Why in the world a girl may fall in love with the guy who raped her, i don't know. This and a truly flat, dry writing type led me to dislike this book. i used to be completely satisfied to complete it, and it'll now not be staying on my shelves.

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