Eva Luna: Writing as History

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Abstract
The Bildungsroman of Eva Luna's development as a writer reflects—in a somewhat fragmented manner—important developments in Latin American literary history. Her personal quest was paralleled by an aesthetic quest, manifested in the trying on and taking off of various genres, literary movements and myths characteristic of Latin America; she even goes so far as to allude explicitly to specific authors and their individual works. Although some of these are simply lightheartedly parodied, others are reworked and reinterpreted in the light of the feminist enterprise of the past twenty-five years. Eva Luna transgresses fundamentally by having an intellectually strong, sexual, nurturing, very feminine protagonist, setting up an initial rupture with the dichotomy so clearly demarcated by Octavio Paz between "the mother and the whore." Four primary categories suggest themselves: myth and the mythic consciousness; magical realism; Boom writers; and then a miscellaneous grouping that subsumes a host of other significant literatures and literary themes: the picaresque, the neo-romantic, novels of the dictators, the ever-present conflict between civilization and barbarism, and testimonial literature.

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Recommended Citation

The Stories of Eva Luna; storytelling techniques and style. Writing short stories is not an easy task for any author since he or she needs to accomplish the goal in few pages and keep the reader interested at the same time. In general, while writing short stories, the author must be creative and inventive. Furthermore, he must show action, originality, scandals, sex and violence; themes that the reader would find appealing. Throughout history these countries suffered the same wars for independence, fought for human dignity and struggled to save the old traditions wiped by colonialism. Both authors relied on human heritage and artifacts to craft memorable characters. Similarly, they have experimented with various themes and topics that have touched the heart of readers around the world. Cuentos de Eva Luna by Isabel Allende, 1992, Bantam Books edition, in English. The main character of Eva Luna offers two dozen vibrant, enchanting stories to her lover, Rolfe Carle. By the author of House of the Spirits. Reprint. 125,000 first printing. NYT. Edition Notes. Translation of: Cuentos de Eva Luna.

Classifications. Our Reading Guide for Eva Luna by Isabel Allende includes a Book Club Discussion Guide, Book Review, Plot Summary-Synopsis and Author Bio. Why do you suppose she includes history in this list? Where do you see evidence of Magic Realism in Eva Luna? Do you think this technique or "way of seeing" makes her writing more "literary" (that is, more likely to be regarded as "serious fiction") than would otherwise be the case? 2. An avowed feminist, Isabel Allende often critiques male dominance in her fiction, but she generally balances favorable with unfavorable male characters. What kinds of behavior does she tend to criticize even in male characters she does not portray as out-and-out villains? What traits does she celebrate most in h