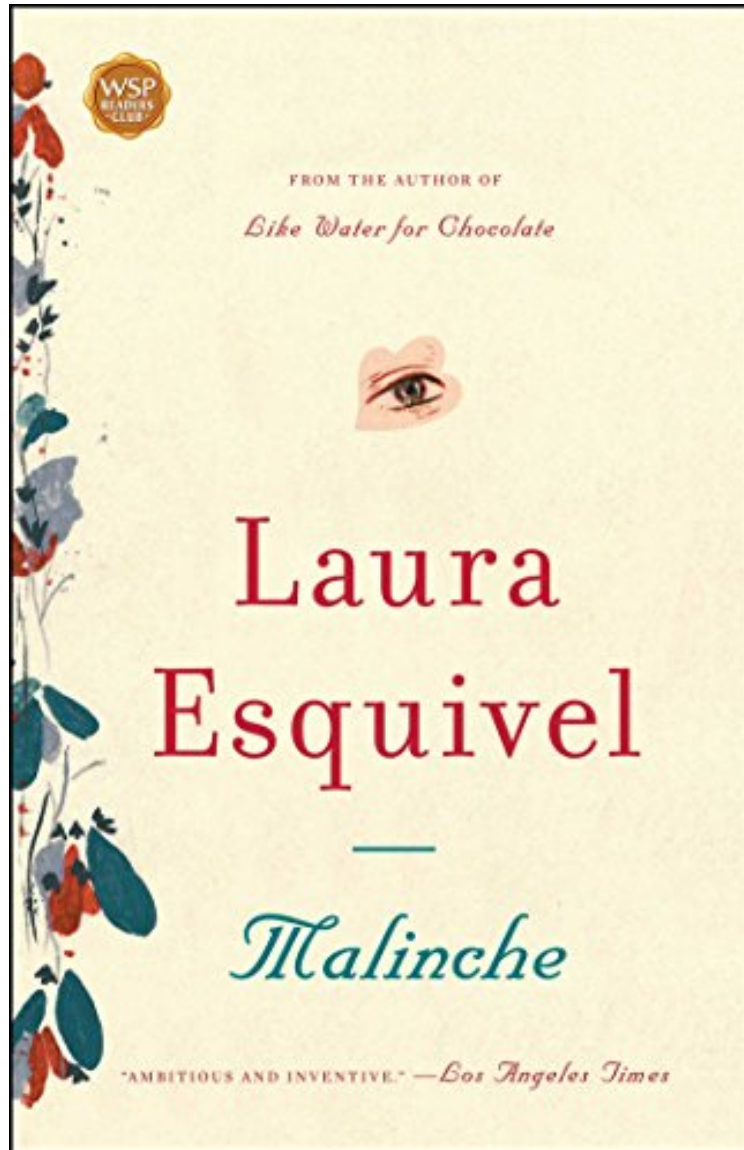


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Malinche: A Novel (English Edition)

Von Laura Esquivel

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Von Laura Esquivel : Malinche: A Novel (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Malinche: A Novel (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. gutes buch^^Von Svenja Mllerdieses Buch handelt von der Legende der Mayaprinzessin Malinchhe, die eine entscheidende Rolle bei der Eroberung Mexikos gespielt haben soll. Laura Escivel erzht diese Geschichte aus einer etwas anderen

Sicht, als man sie blicherweise hrt. Diese Ausgabe ist auf Englisch.

Kurzbeschreibung When Malinalli, a member of the tribe conquered by the Aztec warriors, first meets Cortes, she -- like many -- believes that he is the reincarnated forefather god of her tribe. Naturally, she assumes that her task is to help Cortes destroy the Aztec empire and free her people. The two fall passionately in love, but Malinalli gradually comes to realize that Cortes's thirst for conquest is all too human. He is willing to destroy anyone, even his own men, even their own love. Throughout Mexican history, Malinalli has been reviled for her betrayal of the Indian people. However, recent historical research has shown that her role was much more complex; she was the mediator between two cultures, Hispanic and Native American, and two languages, Spanish and Nahuatl. Bursting with lyricism and vivid imagery, Malinche finally unveils the truth behind this legendary love affair. From Publishers Weekly Through the eyes of the historical native woman of the novel's title, Esquivel (*Like Water for Chocolate*) reveals the defeat and destruction of Montezuma's 16th-century Mexicas empire at the hands of Spanish conquistador Hernn Cortes. Malinche, also called Malinalli, was sold into slavery as a child and later became "The Tongue," Cortes's interpreter and lover remembered by history as a traitor for her contribution to the brutal Spanish triumph. In her lyrical but flawed fifth novel, Esquivel details richly imagined complications for a woman trapped between the ancient Mexicas civilization and the Spaniards. Esquivel revels in descriptions of the role of ancient gods in native life and Malinalli's theological musings on the similarities between her belief system and Christianity. But what the book offers in anthropological specificity, it lacks in narrative immediacy, even while Esquivel also imagines Cortes's point of view. The author also packs the arc of Malinalli's life into a relatively short novel: she bears Cortes an illegitimate son, marries another Spaniard and has a daughter before her sad demise. The resulting disjointed storytelling gives short shrift to this complex heroine, a woman whose role in Mexican history is controversial to this day. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist The best-selling author of *Like Water for Chocolate* (1992) here turns to Mexico's legendary historical figure of Malinche, Hernan Cortes' Indian interpreter and mistress, for another of her cultural explorations of Mexico's past. In Esquivel's reinterpretation of the story, the woman long regarded as a traitor is cast in a much more sympathetic light and is called Malinalli. Raised by her protective grandmother and given a deep appreciation for her people's customs, language, and religion, Malinalli eagerly awaits the arrival of Cortes, believing that he is the reincarnation of her tribe's benevolent and beloved god Quetzalcoatl and that he will put an end to the barbaric practice of human sacrifice practiced by their ruler, Montezuma. A gifted linguist, Malinalli soon picks up Spanish and becomes an invaluable interpreter, translating between Spanish and Nahuatl; she remains convinced that Cortes' interest and hers are one and the same: the liberation of her people. The two become lovers, but Malinalli grows disenchanted upon realizing that the wily Cortes is obsessed with gold and just as bloodthirsty as Montezuma. This novel is not as accessible as Esquivel's earlier work, and the quality of the prose is uneven, sometimes lyrical and sometimes stilted. Still, Esquivel's many fervent fans will be interested in her latest. Joanne Wilkinson Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved