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Like Water For Chocolate: A Novel In Monthly Installments With Recipes, Romances, And Home Remedies



Synopsis

Earthy, magical, and utterly charming, this tale of family life in turn-of-the-century Mexico became a best-selling phenomenon with its winning blend of poignant romance and bittersweet wit.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Like *Water for Chocolate*, by Laura Esquivel, is the perfect love story filled with home remedies and delicious monthly recipes. In the early 1900's, a beautiful baby girl named Tita is born in Mexico. As she grows older, she becomes more beautiful and is drawn to her true love, Pedro. As the youngest of three daughters in the De la Garza family, a tradition states that Tita is forbidden to marry and must always care for her strict Mama Elena (p. 10). Tita and Pedro both search for a way to be together. As Tita grows closer to Pedro, Mama Elena begins to lose her respect and claims that she will never die and always haunt Tita for disobeying her (p. 173). This romantic fiction uses realistic details to describe all of the food and people that are found at the De la Garza ranch. With over two million copies in print, I would call *Like Water for Chocolate* an amazing and outstanding book. This is a great book for someone who enjoys love stories. You may also want to read it if you want to learn some home remedies or culinary skills. Since part of this book is a Mexican cookbook, it really sets itself apart from other love stories. Though in those love stories, there is usually a torn or restricted love between two characters as it is in *Like Water for Chocolate*. With every new monthly recipe, Esquivel also gives new home remedies packed with a lot of detail. You really have to pay attention to the story and what is going on to understand it, otherwise the ending will confuse you. With all of the passionate love going on, junior high students would best not read this book. It is a

little too mature and should be read by high school students or adults. I have enjoyed this book a lot.

THIS REVIEW WILL CONTAIN SPOILERS. While I usually don't write my reviews with any plot information given away, to discuss this book and why I feel the way I do about it, I need to talk about specific events in the book. I really wanted to love this book. For most of the book, I did enjoy it. I loved its charming, quirky use of magical realism, the focus on women characters, the recipes worked into the story that meant so much to the main character. I really thought this book would be at least a four star read for me. In the end, however, the way the romance is handled really just left me uncomfortable. The story is about Tita, the youngest of three daughters, and therefore, according to her completely abusive mother, Tita isn't allowed to marry, but must take care of her mother forever. Tita's sweetheart, Pedro, comes to ask for Tita's hand but instead agrees to marry Tita's sister, Rosaura, in order to stay close to Tita. A scandal is brewing!! The book deals with the awkward circling of Tita and Pedro, Tita's relationship to her mother, and how Tita wants to live her life. I really enjoyed a lot of the aspects, but Tita's relationship with Pedro was very uncomfortable for me. First of all, Pedro is very childish and rude, and agrees to marry Rosaura but constantly makes Rosaura feel bad about herself due to his infatuation with Tita. Rosaura, while not a very nice character, is written off because she becomes fat and smelly and she's just in the way of true love, although I feel it was rather manipulative and cruel for Pedro to marry her and use her to stay near Tita. Rosaura is written off as the bad guy and an obstacle, which is a pretty shallow character design, in my opinion. That's not the worst part, though.

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