



The Color of Summer: or The New Garden of Earthly Delights

Reinaldo Arenas , Andrew Hurley (Translator) , Thomas Colchie (Introduction)

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Critics worldwide have praised Reinaldo Arenas's writing. His extraordinary memoir, **Before Night Falls**, was named one of the fourteen "Best Books of 1993" by the editors of **The New York Times Book Review** and has now been made into a major motion picture.

The Color of Summer, Arenas's finest comic achievement, is also the fulfillment of his life's work, the **Pentagonía**, a five-volume cycle of novels he began writing in his early twenties. Although it is the penultimate installment in his "secret history of Cuba," it was, in fact, the last book Arenas wrote before his death in 1990. A Rabelaisian tale of survival by wits and wit, **The Color of Summer** is ultimately a powerful and passionate story about the triumph of the human spirit over the forces of political and sexual repression.

The Color of Summer: or The New Garden of Earthly Delights Details

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Author : Reinaldo Arenas , Andrew Hurley (Translator) , Thomas Colchie (Introduction)

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From Reader Review The Color of Summer: or The New Garden of Earthly Delights for online ebook

!Tæmbu?u says

KOBOBOOKS

Jim says

It was ok, but I was disappointed. I tried to get into it, but it seemed like one long gay-inspired rant on Fidel. Now, I can handle some of this, and it was both interesting and funny at times---but there is only so much I can handle.

Mo says

What was all the fuss about? I just sold this on Amazon and am glad about the \$1.75 I made on it!

Nereyda says

La mejor novela de Arenas.

Alfredo Bojórquez says

Un libro bien importante para lxs que son críticxs con la cultura cubana revolucionaria de los 60 y 70. Abre brecha para lo que después harán Pedro Juan Gutiérrez, Zoe Valdés, Daína Chaviano entre otrxs narradorxs cubanxs contemporáneos de esa estirpe.

mtthw says

fatalistically sexy?

Kim says

The writing in this book is stunningly beautiful and so,so funny. However, I do recommend that you read Before Night Falls first because you will get all of the references and understand the humor. I used this book for a Queer Literature research paper so I kind of flipped around the short story format and still fully

appreciated this book. Love this so much!

Jamie says

This is crude but yet so beautiful, wildly humorous, imaginative and dark, all in one. It is a brilliant book and so unique in style, taking you on a journey through the eyes and passions of youth. The anger at a world that does not allow one to simply enjoy its pleasures rebounds throughout the book. Yet there is also such a strong vein of unabashed hope, love and joy that beats across each page that distills life to its essence. We are so lucky for something that so quickly can be taken away.

Jennifer Mccombs says

Cuba sits on the idea of a facade of hardworking men and the idea that Communism is a balanced and equal governing idea during the late 50's and 60's but if Arenas aims to point out anything in this novel it is that ignorance sure is bliss. The guts of Cuba is full of betrayal, deceit, and dishonesty layered with a sexual revolution that Castro and his sharks aim to seek and destroy. It's a shame Reinaldo Arenas is no longer with us...then again, his death might just be the necessary ingredient in order for his story to be complete, as tragic as it might be.

mazal bohbot berrie says

Reinaldo Arenas, you will always be known to me as the first love of my adult life. So it is with sadness that I put you away, for now, unfinished. As far as I'm concerned in your brutal life, lived with much passion, you have mastered the mysterious dance between dominance and revolt; the richness of your detailed and inventive mind matched only by the lushness of your lonely Island. I will come back and visit soon. Warm hugs, mazal.

Rodney Jenson says

Special indeed
We'd heard of Fifo's persecution of homosexuals since The Early 70's
but this poetic riff of pain beauty intelligence and comedy
MEMORABLE

Vanessa says

Very descriptive and iconic read. I love the way that he creates mythical characters and scenes based on what was going on during the Cuban Revolution. Highly recommended read.

brian pidgeon says

not his best or most coherent book. tho some allowances are to be made since it is a collection of pieces. filled with all the visionary satire and insight to the human condition that permeate his other works. more out there in some parts. well worth reading for someone familiar with Reinaldo's works but not a good starting point.

Blair says

...Coco Salas' mosquitos, the seven wonders of cuban socialism, sucking cock under water at the beach, masturbating cats with toothbrushes, sex with Bloodythirsty Shark with his enormous member, Clara's purportedly disease ridden paintings, tongue-twisters galore, The common or 'simple queen' who lives with their mother and who every Friday goes to see 'The Umbrellas of Cherbourg', backstabbing relatives, infamous poetry readings... these are passages that meant much to me. Overall, a wonderful read (if the profanity and repetitiveness does not bother you) once you get past the opening play. I laughed many times, almost cried once and am glad that I took a chance on this one.

Dennis says

The Color of Summer begins with an impossible play titled "The Flight of Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda" (with a cast of over 100) and spirals into a dizzying fractured narrative documenting the festivities celebrating Fifo's (a Castro stand in) 50th year running Cuba. The novel is a loud mess with tongue twisters, a shifting central character, bitchy queens, and a lot of outlandish sex, but still manages to be a truly moving work. Arenas is a genius satirist, and he shows all of his cards in this book.

Lina says

Crazy!!

José says

El Color del Verano es sin dudas el mejor libro que he leído de Reinaldo Arenas, y digo libro en un sentido muy amplio porque este texto es al mismo tiempo carta, oración, poema, teatro, venganza, chiste, música y novela. La estructura del texto es lo que más llama la atención al inicio, el mismo Arenas la describe como una obra circular y ciclónica, con un centro o vértice hacia donde parten todas las flechas, y gracias a esta cualidad de circunferencia, el texto en realidad no comienza ni termina en un punto en específico, por lo que puede empezar a leerse en cualquier capítulo, y esto lo noté cuando por la mitad del libro me topé con el prólogo.

La historia gira en torno al carnaval que se celebra como conmemoración de los 50 años en el poder del dictador cubano "Fifo", durante las preparaciones para la celebración se describen una serie de transmutaciones alucinantes, sexualidades desbordadas, imágenes surrealistas, y anécdotas verdaderamente chistosas. Al sufrir tanta represión, las personas de la Isla llegan a la conclusión de que la única forma que tienen para ser libres es separando a la isla de su base insular, y dejar que el viento y el mar la lleve a la deriva.

Este libro fue publicado 9 años después de la muerte de Reinaldo, un proceso bastante complicado ya que debido a su carácter subversivo, crítico e implacable, tanto la izquierda oxidada como la derecha obstinada pusieron trabas para su publicación. Es curioso que un libro tan brutal también tenga la habilidad de hacer reír, y nunca me había reído tanto leyendo un libro. Lo recomiendo principalmente para todos aquellos que ya estén familiarizados con la obra de Arenas, principalmente con la *Pentagonía* y su autobiografía.

Patty says

unreadable. either that or currently unreadable by me. shelving for later.
