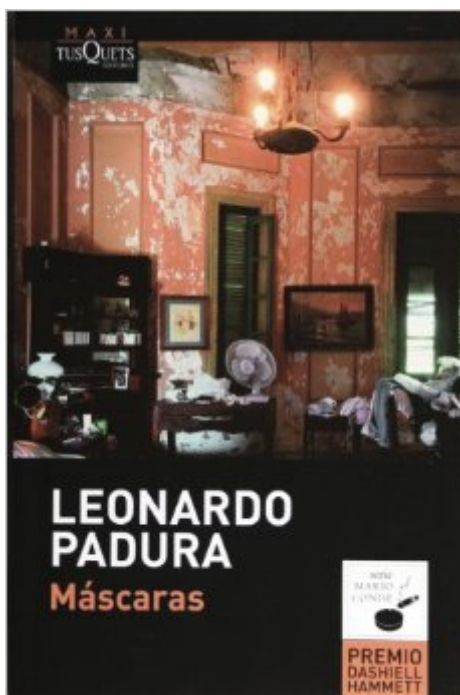


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Mascaras (Spanish Edition) (Mario Conde)



Synopsis

En la tupida arboleda del Bosque de La Habana aparece un 6 de agosto, día en que la Iglesia celebra la transfiguración de Jesús, el cuerpo de un travesti con el lazo de seda roja de la muerte aun al cuello. Para mayor zozobra del Conde, aquella mujer «sin los beneficios de la naturaleza», vestida de rojo, resulta ser Alexis Arayan, hijo de un respetado diplomático del régimen cubano. La investigación se inicia con la visita del Conde al impresionante personaje del Marques, hombre de letras y de teatro, homosexual desterrado en su propia tierra en una casona desvencijada, especie de excéntrico santo y brujo a la vez, culto, inteligente, astuto y dotado de la más refinada ironía. Poco a poco, el Conde va adentrándose en el mundo hosco en el que le introduce ladinamente el Marques, poblado de seres que parecen todos portadores de la verdad de Alexis Arayan. Pero donde, en semejante laberinto, encontrará el Conde su verdad?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"One of the few Cuban writers who, from Cuba, dares to offer a critical vision of the social situation, Padura continues with *Máscaras* the tetralogy *Cuatro estaciones*, whose protagonist is police Lieutenant Mario Conde. By means of the adventures of this character and his cases, the author sketches a portrait of the small virtues and great miseries of present-day Cuba." As reviewed in "The New Essential Guide to Spanish Reading" which is published by America Reads Spanish: a campaign aimed to increase the use and reading of the Spanish language through the thousands of libraries, schools and book stores in the US. This book is one of three titles by this author included

in the guide.

As always, Padura's stories contain far more than a detective story. The mystery is great, but more informative and interesting is the study of transvestism, as a way of creating a different reality, or mocking the "accepted" reality. Padura also includes some insights into the repressive regime in Cuba, and its effects on talented and creative people. My only criticism is that he does not seem to make a clear distinction between homosexuality and transvestism. Perhaps it does not matter, because the society Padura lives in treats both with equal cruelty. Great story. I like this author very much, and look forward to the day when his masterpiece "El Hombre que Amaba a los Perros" is translated.

Leonardo Padura is a first rate writer. He is careful and consistent with his characters, introducing them in many of his mysteries and his long novels. He has a wonderful sense of life in the barrio, and draws out the details and idiosyncrasies of life in Havana. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading his books.

Este libro es más o menos entretenido. No esperen encontrar una gran obra policiaca, porque no lo es. El autor se restringe mucho al hablar del ambiente social en la isla, y no va al fondo del asunto (algo comprensible para quien vive en una sociedad represiva), pero si buscan una historia que transcurre en Cuba y que no es tan aburrida como otras que se escriben dentro la isla, esta es una opción pasable.

I have read PAduras' work almost in total. Mascaras is to me, maybe the poorest of his collection of short novels. Too much and too explicit sex, very long descriptions that made me lost interest in a couple of times. Even like that I like it.

We have here, one of the greatest Latin American writers of all times. Mr. Padura is transforming Latin American literature.

This man uses more adjectives than you can find in a dictionary, so that any phrase is loaded with them; it is like walking in a fog. Is he trying to make it "pretty"? Or just blurry?

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