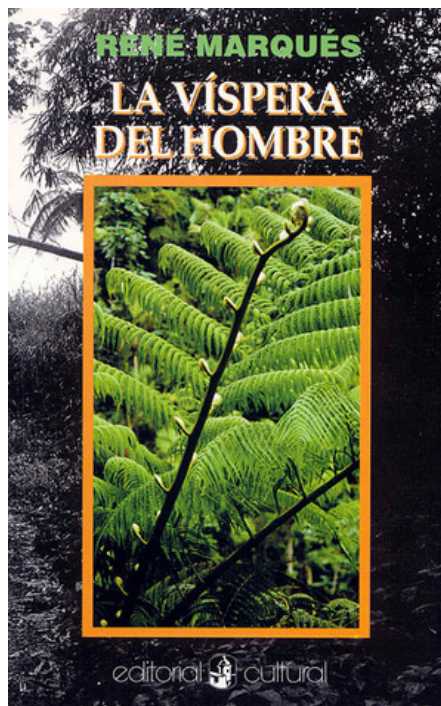




La vispera del hombre

René Marqués

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Through the eyes of Pirulo, a boy who has run away from his house to work independently, we see a string of tragic events unfold in a Puerto Rican plantation (Carrizal) during the early twentieth century. Partly an ideological tale, dealing with the inherently colonial mindset of Puerto Rico (and thus the perennial theme of Puerto Rican pride against the Northamerican influence), partly a violent and heartrending family saga, and partly a coming-of-age tale, this novel still reverberates in today's urban Puerto Rico, where the rural pastures depicted in this novel (with René Marqués's stunning prose) have largely been forgotten.

La vispera del hombre Details

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Author : René Marqués

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Ale says

I am just speechless....

Claudia R says

They made us read this in ninth grade. While it is a coming of age novel, I don't think it was an appropriate one. I think it scarred us.

It is boring for... 3/4? The last pages are really intense and disturbing.

Killing someone with a machete? Gruesome.

Alaila says

drxfghj

Catalina says

The story follows the life and the process of growing up of a puertorrican boy, Pirulo, in parallel to the industrialization of the island.

Carolina Osorio says

Esta historia me da mucha curiosidad por leer las otras obras del autor. Pirulo me inspira ganas de llorar, por las injusticias de la vida. Buen libro. Te hace pensar sobre muchas cosas.

Rolando says

While its melodrama may seem dated, the novel's picturesque scenes give the reader a sense of rural plantation life in mid-twentieth century Puerto Rico. Moreover, the presence of symbolic dichotomies allows for great analysis: freedom/slavery, patria/USA, pride and cowardice, honor and disgrace.

The portrait that the novel offers is tainted with nationalist melancholy. The theme of the "patria" or "nation" is prominent, and though sometimes Pirulo, the main character, feels like a mere conduit for Marqués's ideas, he is still rendered fully. Marqués, along with other writers of his generation, accepted the coming of change

with weary and exhausted pride, sad but still believing in the future generations for redemption. This novel shows that sentiment really well. Yet, in full modernist fashion, desperation is always at the eve, as is the sun.

ixchelle414 says

Me acordó mucho a un escritor que he leído antes. No falla en mencionar y en hacerte sentir lo terrible e insoportable que es el crecer. Cada humano nace sano y completo, y su crecimiento erróneo derrama todas las posibilidades de la felicidad.

"El problema no era, pues, buscar el sentido de la vida, sino vivirla sin esperanza alguna de encontrar su sentido."
