

[PDF] A Place Where The Sea Remembers

Sandra Benitez - pdf download free book



Books Details:

Title: A Place Where the Sea Remembe
Author: Sandra Benitez
Released: 1993-09-01
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Description:

From Publishers Weekly Latina writer Benitez begins her excellent debut novel with a painful event--the wait for a drowned body to float to shore--and works backwards, retracing the myriad, seemingly insignificant steps that led to the character's death. As in *Like Water for Chocolate*, this novel sympathetically explores the lives of Mexican women caught in a mystical, fatalistic world. Chayo, a flower seller, and her sister Marta, a chambermaid, live in a poverty-stricken village by the sea. When 15-year-old Marta is raped and becomes pregnant, seemingly barren Chayo and her husband, Candelario, agree to take the child. Soon after, however, Chayo discovers that she too is

expectant and reneges on the promise. Livid, Marta arranges with el brujo , the witch doctor, to put a curse on her sister's child. Both women bear sons, and a remorseful Marta tells her sister about the curse, which she claims to have had removed by la curandera , the healer. But when Chayo's son almost dies after being bitten by fire ants, the sisters' relationship once more deteriorates and, inexorably, the tragedy presaged in the book's opening chapter comes to pass. Benitez's unsparing vision into the stark realities of village residents' lives offers a poignant counterpoint to superficial vacation snapshots of Mexico.

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From School Library Journal YA-In the small Mexican town of Santiago, childless Chayo and her husband find their prayers answered when they agree to adopt the unborn child of Marta, Chayo's sister. When Chayo becomes pregnant and they change their mind about adoption, Marta has a witch doctor put a curse on Chayo's unborn baby, setting in motion a series of tragic events. Characters, presented individually by the author and then woven together by plot, attach themselves to readers' sensibilities, and lull them into believing in the goodness of life in this sleepy seaside community. However, all this cultural richness is poised for tragedy when divine retribution takes over.

Ginny Ryder, Lee High School, Fairfax County, VA

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