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Divorce Is In The Air: A Novel



Synopsis

The American debut of a highly acclaimed Spanish writer: a sly, acerbic novel about loveâor the end of loveâand how hard it can be to let go. Thereâs a lot about Joan-Marc that his second wife doesnât knowâand that he now sets out to tell her, come what may. He begins with his disastrous first marriage to an American named Helen, and the vacation they took in a last-ditch attempt to save their relationship. From there Joan-Marc unfurls the story of his life, from early memories of adolescence to a reckoning with mortality in his forties: friendships he abandoned, women he wronged, the wide swathe he cut across polite society in Madrid and Barcelona. Joan-Marc may be the kind of man we love to hate, yet his caustic wit, nostalgia, and self-pity are ultimately as winning as they are devastating. Here is an audacious new voice, an unapologetic portrait of an antihero navigating the perilous shoals of modern lifeâa man struggling with long-held illusions about the inexorable forward march of time.

Book Information

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: Knopf (August 16, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385354029

ISBN-13: 978-0385354028

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 1.2 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

Any book that begins with an auspicious quotation by Ted Hughes is not going to become a Disney movie. Gonzalo TornÃ© presents a difficult set of characters - primarily the narrator - in a difficult novel. *Divorce Is In The Air* is strenuous to read, offensive to nearly every human condition and lifestyle, and rife with c-words, b-words, f- words, and essentially every word that has been spoken since humans first asked "Honey, where's my favorite arrowhead?" Naturally, such a tome is hard to review and even harder to justify a full 5 stars. Imagine Charles Bukowski had discovered A

Confederacy Of Dunces before that author's mother was alleged to. Then, imagine Bukowski, being sober and all, manages to penetrate an entire William Faulkner book. Something like Absalom, Absalom. Or The Bear, but in a very, very prevalent first person. Then, take away anything that approaches a plot or chronology. What's left is TornÃ© and Divorce is in The Air. If you can look beyond foul language, misogyny, racism, tricky sense of location and timing, general lechery, sexual situations but only in wetly descriptive snippets, misuse of social media, hypochondria, endless self-pity, abandonment by and of one's family, suicide, borderline anti-gay, slipping in and out of noir, anti-Madrid, anti-Barcelona, anti-Catalan, and more ... then yes, you must give Divorce is in the Air the longest attention span you can muster. Despite all the above, TornÃ© DOES have limits, and Divorce would never be considered "sick". In fact, if it had more radiance, it could approach brilliance. Readers may well be tempted to skim and skip, but genuine gems would be lost to them.

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