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# Cecilia Valdes



## Synopsis

FonoLibro se enorgullece en presentar la obra cumbre de la literatura Cubana, "Cecilia ValdÃ©s," del escritor Cirilo Villaverde, la cual es considerada la novela cubana mÃ¡s importante del siglo XIX y fue llevada al teatro con mucho Ã©xito en una bellÃ­sima zarzuela. La novela tiene lugar en la Cuba colonial de 1830. Cecilia ValdÃ©s es una joven y hermosa mulata, quien se enamora de un joven de sociedad, Leonardo de Gamboa, hijo de un rico magnate y traficante de esclavos, CÃ©ndido de Gamboa. Es la historia de un maravilloso amor que cae en tragedia por las diferencias raciales y sociales y por un pasado oculto que ambos jÃ³venes ignoran. Cecilia ValdÃ©s relata la composiciÃ³n social, problemas raciales y mestizajes de la Cuba de la Ã©poca, los cÃ©rculos de la Ã©lite de los blancos nacidos en EspaÃ±a y los blancos criollos; el nÃºmero creciente de mulatos, a los que pertenecÃ­a Cecilia, y los negros, algunos esclavos y otros libres. La novela tambiÃ©n relata cÃ³mo era practicada la seducciÃ³n y relaciones entre las razas en la Ã©poca colonial. Viva en este maravilloso audiolibro esta historia de amor, tragedia y venganza, la cual levanta controversias y conflictos en la sociedad, familia y amigos, y que termina en un inesperado final. Â© y (P) 2011 FonoLibro Inc. Todos los derechos reservados. Se prohÃ­be el reproducir, compartir, transmitir el contenido de este audiolibro por cualquier medio sin autorizaciÃ³n expresa del editor y productor del audiolibro, FonoLibro Inc. Please note: This audiobook is in Spanish.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 2 hours and 11 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Abridged

Publisher: FonoLibro Inc. (Audiolibros - Audio Libros)

Audible.com Release Date: October 13, 2011

Language: Spanish

ASIN: B005VFTG8G

Best Sellers Rank: #613 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Literary

Collections #906 in Books > Libros en espaÃ±ol > Literatura y ficciÃ³n > Literatura Mundial

#2080 in Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Anthologies

## Customer Reviews

Set in colonial Havana, Cecilia ValdÃ©s by Cirilo Villaverde opens a window to the evils of slavery

and colonialism in early 19th century Cuba. Written in 1839, Villaverde was describing contemporary evils much as Harriet Beecher Stowe did. Think of it as the Cuban Uncle Tom's Cabin, even if it goes light on violence and heavy on flowery romance. Our eponymous heroine is a strikingly beautiful quadroon orphan who -- unbeknownst to her -- is the product of an adulterous union between Cándido de Gamboa, a lustful and wealthy landowner and slaveholder, and a mulata slave, who dies in childbirth. Eager to avoid a scandal, Don Cándido ships his illegitimate mixed-race daughter Cecilia to an orphanage. Her grandmother, Chepilla, after five years, is able to regain custody of the girl through threats of exposure, and brings Cecilia up, but Chepilla doesn't disclose Cecilia's paternity. The coquettish and beautiful Cecilia has many admirers, but she gains a dangerous one: Don Cándido's legitimate eldest son and heir, Leonardo. Leonardo Gamboa is engaged to the well-born and white Isabel Ilincheta from Alquázar, a good match arranged by Leonardo's mother with a girl Leonardo has known since boyhood. However, like his father, Leonardo has a roving eye. Leonardo unwittingly falls in love with Cecilia, his half-sister, and she with him. But the fickle Leonardo abandons Cecilia for Isabel Ilincheta and respectability. Needless to say, this tale of star-crossed lovers will end tragically. In addition to criticisms of slavery, the novel also shines a light on the racial and class system of colonial America. The Spanish-born oligarchs top the social hierarchy, followed by the white Cuban colonists (criollos), sorted by wealth and family distinction.

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