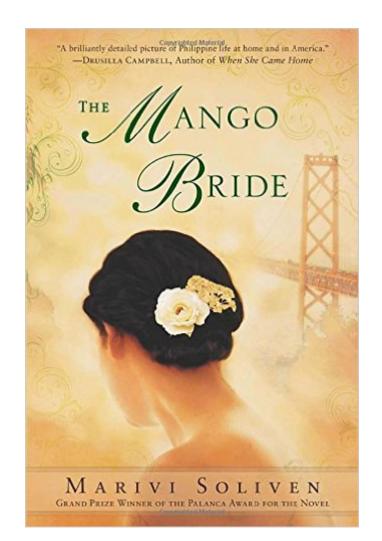


The Mango Bride





Synopsis

Two women, two cultures, and the fight to find a new life in America, despite the secrets of the pastâ |Banished by her wealthy Filipino family in Manila, Amparo Guerrero travels to Oakland, California, to forge a new life. Although her mother labels her life in exile a diminished one, Amparo believes her struggles are a small price to pay for freedom.Like Amparo, Beverly Obejasâ "an impoverished Filipina waitressâ "forsakes Manila and comes to Oakland as a mail-order bride in search of a better life. Yet even in the land of plenty, Beverly fails to find the happiness and prosperity she envisioned.As Amparo works to build the immigrantâ ™s dream, she becomes entangled in the chaos of Beverlyâ ™s immigrant nightmare. Their unexpected collision forces them both to make terrible choices and confront a life-changing secret, but through it all they hold fast to family, in all its enduring and surprising transformations.

Book Information

Paperback: 368 pages Publisher: NAL; 1 edition (April 30, 2013) Language: English ISBN-10: 0451239849 ISBN-13: 978-0451239846 Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (47 customer reviews) Best Sellers Rank: #605,643 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #404 in Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Asian American #7297 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Family Life

Customer Reviews

They say that a book leaves you exhausted, because through it, you have lived several lives. That is how I felt when I finished The Mango Bride. The elements of the plot were so well-woven that when the end came, it came in a tidal wave that left me drenched and heavy. The Mango Bride is centered around the lives of two protagonists who live in Manila, Philippines: Amparo and Beverly. Amparo comes from the wealthy and well-reputed Duarte-Guerrero family but was banished to the United States after a scandal. Beverly Obejas, on the other hand, lives in poverty and fantasizes of a more glamorous life that she sees in movies. Amparo and Beverly are intriguing characters, and some elements of their lives do feel like they were borrowed from soap operas - an influence that Soliven

nods to in the interview at the back of the book. Sometimes I had trouble believing how naive Amparo and Beverly could be when it came to romance, but hey, this is a cynical American talking here. ;)After her mother's death, Beverly clings on to notions of romance and material prosperity, eventually coming to believe coming to the United States as a mail order bride would help her attain those dreams. As a pretty-faced nobody in the Philippines, Beverly constantly compares her life to those of people around her. Her constant envy of others and self-delusional mindset irritated me throughout the novel, but I suppose that's the sort of "antagonistic personality" that Marivi Soliven likes to write. I was torn between understanding Beverly's situation and disliking her for her self-destructive (and naive) mindset. It made the story all the more compelling because I wanted to find out what would happen to Beverly and Amparo.

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