

Luisgé Martín

Heralde Award 2020

Cien noches (One Hundred Nights)

Irene travels from Madrid to Chicago to study at the university. As part of her academic training, she reviews laboratory work on the sexual behavior of rats, which give certain clues about the fidelity or promiscuity of mammals according to their sex. She also investigates these behaviors in humans and begins a personal journey in which she experiences them herself.

Between Madrid and Chicago, turned into a detective who tracks missing persons and spies on the lives of others, Irene's existence is marked by the men with whom she is related: the American millionaire Adam Galliger, who has an adulterous affair with her, cheating on his woman, and also finances a study on the lies people tell about their infidelities; the Argentine Claudio, who carries a painful secret with him and whose family has a dark past linked to the history of his country; the Bilbao-born Martín, whom she marries and who in reality hardly knows anything about her; Hugo, a childhood relationship with whom she had first experiences that left their mark... And this exploration of love and sexual desire is also incorporated by several relevant female characters such as Adela, a friend of Irene; Graciela, Claudio's mother, or Harriet, Adam's wife.

One Hundred Nights explores the different forms of love –some radical and extreme– and the various sexual behaviors –some equally radical and extreme–; draws up a record of loyalty, infidelity, unspeakable desires, taboos, half-truths and deceptions that surround our relationships. The novel talks about masks and lies. And like a game, it incorporates a series of adultery files that the author asked some friendly Spanish writers to write for him, in a stimulating exercise of literary promiscuity.

"Meditation made flesh on desire and the impossible fidelity, this moral fable with detective and scientific traces makes its way, through the recounting of a life and its pleasures, towards a surprising ending, of undeniable poetic breath" (Gonzalo Pontón Gijón) .

The author:

Luisgé Martín

(Madrid, 1962) has a degree in Spanish Language and Literature from the Universidad Complutense of Madrid and an MBA in Business Management from the Instituto de Empresas. He has received the Ramón Gómez de la Serna Award for narrative, the Antonio Machado and Vargas Llosa Awards for short stories and the Llanes de Viajes award. He has published various novels in Anagrama : *La Mujer de sombra* (Woman in darkness, 2012) that was immediately considered a masterpiece: <<An unexpected way of facing journeys along the edge of the abyss.>> (Enrique Turpin, La Vanguardia); .Also *La misma Ciudad* (The same city, Anagrama, 2013): “A splendid psychological and existentialist novel about a man who takes advantage of 9/11 to change his identity.” (Ángel Basanta, El Mundo) and *La vida equivocada* (The Wrong Life, Anagrama, 2015): “A powerful indignation in shattered life.”(Francisco Solano, El País); “Decisive questions about life, identity and death are tackled in a meaningful way.”(Nadal Suau, El Mundo). “An outstanding novel.” (Jesús Ferrer, La Razón).

He has also published various novels and tales books with prestigious Spanish publisher Alfaguara.

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