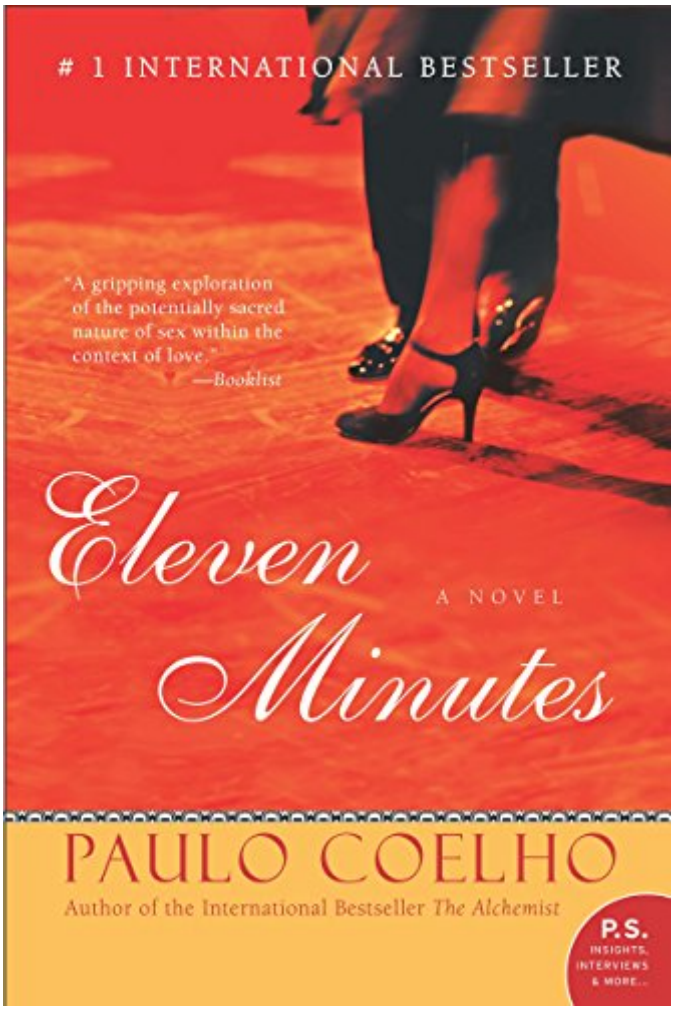
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Eleven Minutes: A Novel (P.S.)



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Synopsis

Eleven Minutes is the story of Maria, a young girl from a Brazilian village, whose first innocent brushes with love leave her heartbroken. At a tender age, she becomes convinced that she will never find true love, instead believing that "love is a terrible thing that will make you suffer. . . ." A chance meeting in Rio takes her to Geneva, where she dreams of finding fame and fortune. Maria's despairing view of love is put to the test when she meets a handsome young painter. In this odyssey of self-discovery, Maria has to choose between pursuing a path of darkness -- sexual pleasure for its own sake -- or risking everything to find her own "inner light" and the possibility of sacred sex, sex in the context of love.This P.S. edition features an extra 16 pages of insights into the book, including author interviews, recommended reading, and more.

Book Information

File Size: 1025 KB

Print Length: 273 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0060589272

Publisher: HarperCollins e-books; Reprint edition (October 13, 2009)

Publication Date: October 13, 2009

Sold by:Ã Â HarperCollins Publishers

Language: English

ASIN: B000JMKO0A

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #52,148 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #8 inÃ Â Books > Religion & Spirituality > New Age & Spirituality > Sacred Sexuality #20 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Occult > Alchemy #63 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts

Customer Reviews

I bought this book to get a different cultural perspective, and it fulfilled that well. The content of the book does describe the reality of being desperately, poor, rural, and third world, and finding a way to

"succeed" in an urban capitalist society. Not the best writing in the world, but that could be the translator, not the original author. I don't read Portugese.

Paulo Coelho is one of my favorite authors. However, Eleven Minutes was really disappointing especially when Coelho referenced his other work (The Alchamist) within the story, it came off as arrogant. The story depicts a woman's fall into prostitution as a means of saving her pride after making some poor life choices. It glorifies the sex industry. Coelho's depiction of the prostitutes experience is in no way convincing, I felt the author's "maleness" in every part of the protagonist which made her a man's ideal porn star (sexy, young, happy, adventurous) and not a tangible human character for this kind of story. Coelho had a wonderful story idea here...something really different that could of set this book apart from all his others... but I feel the story never lived up to the potential of the idea and the author regressed into the themes and styles of his former hit books (which were wonderful), The Alchemist and The Road to Santiago. It was a failed effort to do something new.

I don't recall what I was expecting before I read this book but whatever it was the book wasn't what I expected. There was quite a lot of philosophy around sex and prostitution that some will call rationalization. I often felt as if the protagonist was observing herself but not quite participating in her life most of the time. I suspect that there were points made that went right past me, or at least I hope that there were. I did enjoy some of her inner monologue and her growth and intelligence. She was a bright woman caught up in a foreign world, often just going with the flow, being trusting, and for the most part her trust was not misplaced. That is if you accept her points of view about being poor and being a prostitute. If reading about that life is likely to repel you then don't read this book. And if you're expecting lots of explicit sex you'll be disappointed, though there is a little of it. In the end you'll likely have mixed feelings about Maria, if you have any thoughts at all.

I love this book so much that I've literally given it to all of my friends.Sure, at first glance, it's a book about sex, but once you dig a bit deeper you'll find a book about the complexities of love. From love of self to romantic love.Coelho bravely attempts to tackle questions such as: what is love? how do I love? how do I receive love? how do I not confuse sex with love? how do I use sex to show love? Each answer left me pondering my own ability to love.I found this book moving and filled with moments that required a highlighter and some prayer. At it's conclusion, I found that it really changed my young views on love for the better.I dare you to give it a try.

Coelho always surprises, and never disappoints. Every book is new, fresh--in style--and powerful. I will be mentally processing the messages in this particular book for a while. I'm not usually one to read an erotic novel, but in this case I was hooked with the first pages. Another compelling book by Paulo Coelho.

This is one of my favorite books written by an incredible writer, I think its quite hard to actually say I don't like any of his books because they are all so profound in their own ways. They are impeccably put but this one is definitely my top favorite!

If you are interested at all in understanding the true nature of human sexuality, you should read this story of a young Brazilian woman who chooses a life of prostitution in Europe while she seeks the meaning of true love and its connection to sacred sex.

Hard to believe this is the work of the same man who gave us The Alchemist and The Valkyries. I couldn't slog my way through it. Wasted my money and some time.

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