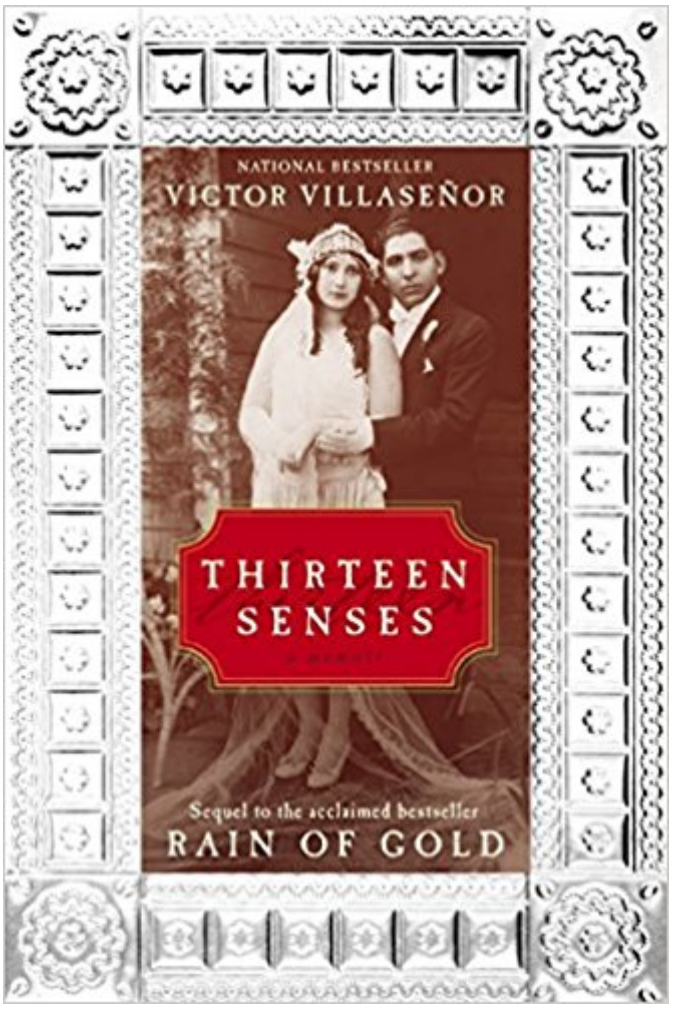
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Thirteen Senses: A Memoir



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Synopsis

A daring memoir of love, magic, adventure, and miracles, Victor VillaseÃƒÂ or's Thirteen Senses continues the exhilarating family saga that began in the widely acclaimed bestseller Rain of Gold, delivering a stunning story of passion, family, and the forgotten mystical senses that stir within us all. Thirteen Senses begins with the fiftieth wedding anniversary of the aging former bootlegger Salvador and his elegant wife, Lupe. When asked by a young priest to repeat the sacred ceremonial phrase "to honor and obey," Lupe surprises herself and says. "No, I will not say 'obey'. How dare you! You don't talk to me like this after fifty years of marriage and I now knowing what I know!" After the hilarious shock of Lupe's rejection of the ceremony, the VillaseÃƒÂ or family is forced to examine the love that Lupe and Salvador have shared for so many years -- a universal, gut-honest love that will eventually energize and inspire the couple into old age.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A good story, Victor VillaseÃƒÂ or writes in the opening pages of this sequel to Rain of Gold, can save your life. Consider, he continues in this memorable portrait of Latino family life, the case of his grandparents, who fled from civil-war-torn Mexico to the United States in 1910. As they traveled north, his father told VillaseÃƒÂ or, "Cannons were blasting. People were screaming and dying. The creeks ran red with blood." But VillaseÃƒÂ or's grandmother's stories about "the stars, the moon, the she-fox" kept the children's minds off the terrors around them, guiding them to their new homeland and shaping family history. That history provides the grist for VillaseÃƒÂ or's exuberantly

spinning mill, yielding a sprawling narrative shot through with touches of magical realism and homespun philosophy, and tinged occasionally with regret--as when, for instance, VillaseÃƒÂ or's mother confesses, "I miss your father so much ... but I'm the one who could never bring myself to tell him that I loved him." But sorrow is rare and humor plentiful as VillaseÃƒÂ or affectionately recounts his relatives' travails and improbable dreams, some of which, like a grandfather's quest for gold in a hidden Mexican canyon, come true. As he writes, VillaseÃƒÂ or underscores the importance of tradition, faith, forgiveness, and, yes, good stories in making life livable, and this good story will please many readers. --Gregory McNamee --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Fans of Villasenor's admirable family epic, Rain of Gold (Arte Publico, 1991) will be hard-pressed to wade through this massive, workmanlike sequel. The book's humorous opening at the 50th-anniversary renewal of Villasenor's parents' wedding vows, the "bride" refuses to say "obey" as her sister catcalls from the front pew about the groom's unreliability gives way to a series of simplistic feminist diatribes followed by a nasty family squabble. The author then tracks his mother and father, Lupe and Salvador, through the passionate and turbulent first years of their marriage, always shadowed by Salvador's bootlegging and deceit, always redeemed by Lupe's fiery strength, her bottom-line common sense and a hearty helping of sex. Lupe follows Salvador around Mexico on his criminal and other exploits before putting her foot down; the book leaves them at the start of a presumably lawful, relatively calm life in California. Though the author espouses feminist views, his female characters are one-dimensional, axiom-spouting cultural stereotypes: suffering, saintly and bitter. Where the earlier book offered an enjoyable, unreconstructed representation of early 20th-century rural Mexican culture, here that culture has been infected by a feel-good mysticism that even the California setting doesn't excuse. The story meanders through linguistic anachronisms (no man in 1929 would have said "full Latina hips"), mixed metaphors, aimless digressions, countless exclamation marks and warmed-over New Age imagery like "The Father Sun was now gone, and the Mother Moon was coming up, and the Child Earth was cooling." The author's central question about his parents' relationship "Was it love?" brings a neat if superficial unity to the narrative. 8 pages b&w photos not seen by PW. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I first discovered Victor Villasenor on the Charlie Rose show shortly after the publication of Rain of Gold. I still have the hardback first-edition version of this book because it was so special. I enjoyed

the continuation of the family saga, but missed the mystical magic of the first book. Interesting because Victor attempts to explain the magic of his mother's system of 13 senses in this book, but I preferred it as the mystery. By the way, I'm very open to believing that it really did rain gold in the distant past in that canyon.

When I began reading Thirteen Senses, I was in awe of Victor Villasenor's wonderful family (which he has immortalized in his stories).As the story begins, the family gathers to celebrate the renewing of the marriage vows of Victor's parents, Lupe and Salvador. And, like all families, there is family drama. There are some big surprises for everyone, from the spirited and lovely Lupe. So I was surprised to find that this family is much like my own--human and full of human frailties, and bits of craziness and fun, too.And then the story goes back in time, to the beginning of Lupe and Salvador's marriage: Two young people in love start out in the world of bootlegging-- prior to the Stock Market Crash-- when Southern California was still mostly orange groves and flower fields. Daring bootlegger Salvador and the beautiful, refined Lupe discover the ups and downs of marriage in those very exciting, rocky times.Family is a guide for Salvador and Lupe, in the form of their loving, troublesome, angry, wonderful living family members; and the loving, very alive spiritual beings who are just as real. For, as their little Indian mothers teach them, there will always be the drama of Creation in every marriage. The teachings of their native American ancestors help Lupe and Salvador to find how to make miracles. These miracles will help them survive the dangers that face them--and that indeed, face all of us.

This book continues with the love story of Salvador and Lupe Villasenor and the first three years of their marriage. Where Rain of Gold left off after the marriage ceremony, Thirteen Senses opens with the renewed vows on the day of their 50th anniversary and takes the reader back to the beginning day of the wedding reception. There is so much more to learn from Dona Margarita in this book....life lessons for the newlyweds and the reader. The Spirit and Wisdom of God is on every page along with daily miracles that the reader can experience right along with Lupe, Salvador, Dona Margarita and Dona Guadalupe ! This book is worth reading over and over and over and is better than any movie produced ! I did not want it to end but yet I couldn't put it down !.....just to keep on reliving those wonderful love miracles through Dona Margarita. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED READING !!!

I really enjoyed the "13 Senses" though not as much as some of Villasenor's other books. It is a

great story about the author's parents when they were in the first years of marriage. I really enjoyed the descriptions of the time period and how things have both changed and not changed through the years. This book actually gives me some real hope during this time of economic manipulation by the powers that be. It sounds like the Great Depression was similar in its cause and manipulation by the rich. The reason for the 4 stars for a book I really enjoyed was the bothersome exclamation points and capitalization used to such a degree!!! I picked a page and counted 33 exclamation points on just this one page with some capitalized words thrown in. If you enjoy history, study of religion, study of Mexico or California or a good love story, this is your book.

Very hard to put down

An enjoyable read. Cool new perspective of prohibition life!

I couldn't put this book down! Light-hearted, funny, nostalgic love story.

Great Stuff.Mr. Villasenor continues the history of his family and that of the San Diego area....where he resides on his ranch.Love it.Go to Old San Diego. Yes, I did see ghost orbs.Have been in many old cities, cemetaries etc...especially Charleston SC. Only appeared to me behind the Casa de Estudillo.Enjoy your read.

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