



Loverboys

By Ana Castillo

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“Seductive ... full of infectious vigor ... these stories demand, above all, to be listened to.”? *New York Times Book Review*

From Ana Castillo, the widely praised author of *So Far from God* and *The Guardians*, comes this collection of stories on the experience of love in all its myriad configurations. Infectiously moody and murderously comic, Castillo chronicles the rapturous beginnings, melancholy middles, and bittersweet endings of modern romance between men and women, men and men, and women and women.

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Loverboys By Ana Castillo Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1491930 in Books
- Published on: 2008-07-17
- Released on: 2008-07-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.30" h x .60" w x 5.60" l, .39 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 224 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

A collection of short stories about the seductive, vibrant, often defiant lives of lovers, not all of them boys. In "La Ronde," women fall for women, for men, for both, and explore the complex extension of this love in their own families. In "Vatolandia," an independent-minded woman creates a critical system in which to classify the men she dates. And in the title story a woman muses at the hypocrisy of life while mourning the departure of her latest boyfriend over drinks in a gay bar. Though the women in these stories have their fair share of heartache, they refuse to be victims. As they face their challenges head-on, they unknowingly shape their own destinies.

From Publishers Weekly

The vitality of Castillo's voice, and the fully engaged lives of her hot-blooded characters, endow her first collection of short stories with earthy eroticism and zesty humor. These 22 tales of love, lust, and Latina tradition showcase bold protagonists while investigating the substance of their lives. Despite the title, however, the lovers here are most often not boys, but experienced women, of Mexican heritage. In the title story, the essence of love's magic is slowly revealed by narrator Carmen, a bisexual would-be writer and proprietor of "the only bookstore in town that deals with the question of the soul." Carmen learns how to experience love from her friends, first as she secludes herself in a primitive adobe in the desert outside of Santa Fe and later from La Miss Rose's pied a terre in Chicago's Barrio. Friendship is vital in these often hilarious, sometimes tragic and always compelling stories about love in its many different permutations, or "multitudes," as one large and sexy character, Sara Santistevan, says in "Vatolandia." And we're not talking about idealized romance or even great physical specimens here. The gamut includes some unattractive, emotionally misguided, pathetic or bizarre social rejects. The white loverboy wearing the Malcolm X T-shirt never laughs, only knows how to smooch gay boys in dark corners; the brawny beer-bellied guy with Pancho Villa charm leaves his wife and kids each night to tend a gay bar, and poor little Mirna sleeps in a tomb to escape the importuning of the man for whom she works. Paco and Rose have no blankets for their beds but bask in the warmth of a 25-inch color TV while they wait to trap another golden cockroach to sell to the pawnbroker. The world of Castillo's literary art resembles the cinematic bohemia depicted by Pedro Almodovar, and her inventive vignettes convey the volatile magic of such a world. Carmen says: "I wish I could talk like my eyes can see." Castillo does. Author tour.

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From Library Journal

Castillo, a novelist, poet, and critic who has won numerous awards, including the Carl Sandberg Prize, has been described as a first-rate storyteller. But in these terse, fragmentary pieces, her strength would seem to be in capturing character through a well-sketched situation. In the few pages of "Again, Like Before," for instance, missed cues at a disastrous dinner show just how badly matched two women are as lovers. As the narrator finally concludes wearily, "I left you simply because I did not love you," we feel her hard-edged indifference not just to her lover but to the world. Throughout, the prose is hip, street smart, and cutting?"Then his brothers started ragging him about running around with a lesbian?or worse, a bisexual, nothing more shady or untrustworthy (except a liberal)," the settings refreshingly far from suburbia, and the action (such as it is) on the edge. It might be satisfying to see Castillo develop her ideas more fully, but it's probably not on her agenda. For contemporary and gay/lesbian collections.?Barbara Hoffert, "Library Journal"

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mildred Wright:

This book untitled Loverboys to be one of several books which best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit on it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book retail outlet or you can order it through online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, as you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason for you to past this book from your list.

John Silverstein:

Typically the book Loverboys will bring that you the new experience of reading a book. The author style to spell out the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book to read, this book very suited to you. The book Loverboys is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

Carolyn Berndt:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book can be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the guide untitled Loverboys can be good book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Jack Murray:

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