



Young Adult Literature from Latin America

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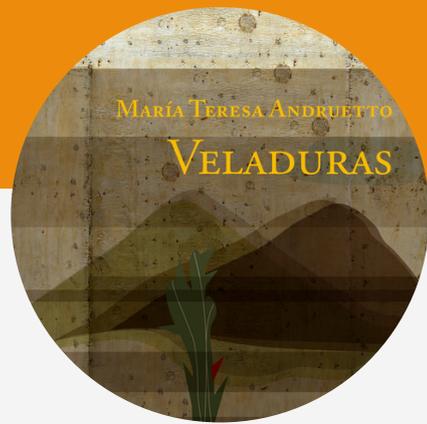


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Glazes

María Teresa Andruetto



Original Title: Veladuras

Working Title: Glazes

Original Language: Spanish / Argentina

Publisher: Norma (Argentina)
SM (Mexico)

Publishing date: 2005

Number of pages: 60

Age: 12+

Other languages: Italian, 2010

**Banco del Libro
Venezuela
Best Books of 2007**

**Distinguished by the 2006
Argentinian Children's and
Youth Literature Association**

A short literary novel about a young Indigenous woman who recounts the tragic events in her life, her struggles with her mental health and how she has learnt to heal

About the author

María Teresa Andruetto is a highly decorated Argentinian author who writes prose and poetry for children, young people and adults. In 2021, she was nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award and in 2012, she won the Hans Christian Andersen Award for Writing. She has won the Banco del Libro no less than five times. Three earlier titles were selected for inclusion in the prestigious White Ravens Catalogue from the International Youth Library in Germany which selects recommendations from more than 50 countries and in over 30 languages. Her books have also been recommended by IBBY Mexico and have been included in the 2008 IBBY Honors List. Among her other awards is the Ibero-American Prize for Lifetime Work in Children's literature awarded by SM.

None of her works have been translated into English.

Publishing Rights

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Overview

Glazes is short literary novel by one of Argentina's finest authors. In the story, 18-year-old Rosa Mamani, a descendant of the indigenous Aymara, returns to her ancestral home in Quebrada de Humahuaca in northwest Argentina. We meet her as she recounts her life story to an unknown external doctora, trying to explain the reasons for her mental illness.

Triggered by a chance encounter with an old acquaintance, the story begins relatively harmlessly. However, the further back Rosa delves into her history - witnessed through her eyes as a child - the more we are drawn into the truth that she herself has created. She reveals the terrible events that have marked her life: her father's affair, his subsequent suicide, her feelings of guilt, arguments with her mother and struggles with her mental health.

After a time in a medical institute, she has fled the city to her ancestral home where she finds work repairing damaged images and icons for a nearby chapel. Through this therapeutic handicraft work, she learns to "fix what is broken, to put together the images and repair the most badly damaged, the ones that are usually given up for lost" - a metaphor for her own healing.

Why This Book?

I was really drawn in by the style of this book. Andruetto develops Rosa's story little by little. Every sentence feeds you with a nugget of information that will be further developed later on. Each paragraph builds on the previous one, ultimately revealing the shocking events that Rosa has witnessed and the role she believes she has played in it. I was captivated!

Themes

Mental Health

Rosa has witnessed her father's suicide and ultimately feels responsible for everything that has happened, potentially hinting at PTSD. From what she has seen as a child, she builds her own version of events and believes in that as the truth. In the city, she begins to hear disturbing bird calls. Initially she spends time in the House of Rest - a medical institution - before she decides to leave the city and follow her own path. Her mother accuses her of not trying to get better but Rosa has a supportive doctor who advocates for her. Back in her ancestral home, Rosa learns handicraft skills to restore broken images which can be seen as a metaphor for healing and repairing herself.

Mental Health is a key topic at the moment and this novel will hit a chord with those who may have experienced trauma and subsequently struggled with their own mental health.

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Identity

Rosa is searching for her identity. Her father comes from the Indigenous Aymara people while her mother is from the city of Córdoba. She relates strongly to her paternal family and feels them within her, yet she repeatedly comments that she doesn't resemble them physically - she looks more like her mother. She compares herself to her sister who looks more like the women from her Indigenous community but is more like her mother in personality. She struggles with this mis-match and this will resonate with many young people, not only those who have dual heritage, but also those who struggle to relate to different members of their family.

**For more details, full synopsis and translated extract,
please contact claire@cslanguages.co.uk**

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