



What Night Brings

Carla Trujillo

Download now

Read Online 

What Night Brings

Carla Trujillo

What Night Brings Carla Trujillo

Marci Cruz wants God to do two things: change her into a boy, and get rid of her father. What Night Brings is the unforgettable story of Marci's struggle to find and maintain her identity against all odds - a perilous home life, an incomprehensible Church, and a largely indifferent world. Winner of the Miguel Marmol prize focusing on human rights, the Paterson Fiction Prize, the Latino Literary Foundation Latino Book Award, the Bronze Medal from Foreword Magazine, and Honorable Mention for the Gustavus Meyers Books Award. Also shortlisted for a Lambda Literary Award.

What Night Brings Details

Date : Published April 1st 2003 by Curbstone Books

ISBN : 9781880684948

Author : Carla Trujillo

Format : Paperback 242 pages

Genre : Fiction, Lgbt, Glbt, Queer, Young Adult, Lesbian, Historical, Historical Fiction

 [Download What Night Brings ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online What Night Brings ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online What Night Brings Carla Trujillo

From Reader Review What Night Brings for online ebook

Tisha Marie says

I devoured it in one evening. Marci Cruz is an inspiring character and her pain is real. But so is her triumph. She smart and strong and faces too many demons. In the end, though, she remains true to herself. The other people in her life are richly complicated and tragically flawed. I love the world Carla Trujillo has created. I did not want the story to end.

Nikhil says

This novel is narrated by an 11-year old girl who is living with a physically and emotionally abusive father while she attempts to understand her sexual desire for women. Parts of this story work very well: her confusion about her nascent sexuality when no public model of lesbianism exists, her richly characterized extended family, and her struggles and resistance to her father's violence. However, the pacing of this novel remains off - the ending is rushed and the beginning too slow. Some of the plot points are also tedious (e.g., the girls attempts to get a photograph of their father having an affair).

I found the narrative of how the extended family deals with the father's abuse to be very interesting. Several family members try to help the girls (most famously, when the girls' grandmother pulls a knife on the father) but are repeatedly stymied by 1) the girls' mother herself; and 2) these family members unwillingness to remove the girls from their mother until the final catastrophe unfolds. Central to the girls' struggles to escape the abuse they experience is their mother, who no matter her circumstances (economically dependent, economically independent, etc.) and no matter what the fathers do to the girls (e.g., breaking their hands) refuses to acknowledge their father does anything. Her character is, at times, the most confusing. Why does her economic status not affect her willingness to exit the relationship at all? Why does she genuinely believe that she and her kids belong to their father despite everyone around her telling her they dont? This may be consistent with a strong form of psychological dependence produced by emotional abuse, but I would have liked for a greater attempt to characterize why their mother can never leave Eddie, more so than everyone just acknowledging that their mother is "crazy" when it comes to him.

Karen says

For once, I am thankful for the tidy little bow at the end of a novel! This is a heart-wrenching tale about a young girl figuring out what her sexuality is all the while wrestling with her faith and an abusive father. I had to take several breaks while reading this because the abuse is graphic and relentless. All the same, there are some tender moments between Marci and her sister, and Marci's intuition and curiosity give you hope throughout the novel.

There are some questions I'm left with at the end: Does Marci feel she is a boy trapped in a girl's body, or was that the only way she thought she could be with other girls, instead of her it being her true identity? You could argue it both ways given the evidence in the novel. Did the author feel it was best not to explore it too deeply because it's set in the 1960s? Did Tommy get the courage to leave Arlene, or did Arlene get the courage to leave Tommy? What happened to Father Chacón? To Ringo?

Tracey says

diverse teen/adult fiction (Latinx, LGBTQ+ interest)

11 y.o. Chicana, tomboyish girl (her Catholic family includes a physically and vindictively abusive dad, a mother that refuses to leave him, a younger 9 y.o. sister, a closeted gay uncle and his wife who live next door, a cousin recently come back from Vietnam with mental health and drug addiction problems, and a kickass grandma who escaped from her own abusive husband by stabbing him) identifies as a girl but also knows she is attracted to girls. She tries to make sense of it on her own (without having anyone really to talk to) and eventually (after she and her sister escape the never-ending peril that is their angry dad) makes friends with another girl her age who also likes girls.

Because of the time period, this would resonate more with an adult audience, but a queer+ teen would be able to appreciate the themes nonetheless. Marci's voice is smart and true and honest, and her character is easy to like.

Blake says

It was good because it started off with her wishing her dad would leave because he always beats them bad for little things. Around the middle was my favorite part because the dad found a girl named Wanda and started dating her kinda and mom didn't so he ended up buying the kids a cat. Finally around the end the kids find out that the dad was seeing Wanda so they started to spy and take pictures and gave them to Uncle. Then he gave them to a girl and she sent them to the mom and the mom got mad. When the dad got home the mom was yelling at him and he started to punch her in the face and didn't stop so Corin got off the couch and went and grabbed Eddie's gun and shot him in the back.

Janette Duran says

I enjoyed this book very much, especially being narrated by 11 year old Marci. My roommate recommended this book to me. This book brought me laughter and sadness. Laughter because I like Marci's personality, I like how she said some things. Sadness for what she had to go through with her upbringing at home and struggles with her intersectional identity.

Hung Thang says

This book is so good! It is about a girl named Marci and she wants to turn into a boy. She has other problems such as her dad who keeps hitting her and her sister Corin. The problems almost change every time and that makes it cool. The book is also good because there are some Spanish words for Mexican readers. The dad's name Eddie is a very big problem for the girls, but it's interesting on how they deal with him. The book will make you laugh and sad at some point of the book. I really want you to read this book because the author includes inappropriate words to describe how the characters feel.

Asrai says

I loved 'What Night Brings', the book tells such an amazing story and it gives the reader a taste of another person's life from their perspective. The book's language and story is overall amazing and I think lots of people should read it. 'What Night Brings' tells such an emotional story of abuse and how it's seen through a child's eyes, which people need to hear about more often. The book gives its audience so many conflicts and so much drama that it makes it worth reading. I want so many people to read this book because of how emotional and beautiful it is, I think that this book is overall really emotional but heartwarming at the same time.

Hannah says

4.5 stars. This story was so deeply engrossing and was somehow both humorous and devastating at the same time. The author weaves in Spanish and English in the most authentic way, and really makes you feel like you are inside of this dysfunctional family. It's a sad tale with glimmers of hope, and it is not easy to read the details of physical and emotional abuse that take place.

In addition to the story of family abuse we also had a main character struggling with sexuality and identity in an honest and thoughtful way.

I wanted a little more from the ending, which is why I didn't give it 5 stars. Though, maybe being anticlimactic in the end is exactly what it's like to deal with familial abuse. The ending kiss was extremely touching though and redeemed everything!

Dov Zeller says

"Every single day of my life I went to bed asking God to make my dad disappear."

This is the opening line of the novel in which an eleven year old narrator tells us about her life with her mother and father and sister Corine and her extended family. Her relationship to the church and to her own sexuality.

When the story begins, the narrator, Marci (Marcía) Cruz, lives with her brutally abusive father, Eddie. He beats the crap out of his daughters--more terrifyingly, goes from playful to brutal on a dime and then, after beating the girls, tries to get them to admit it was their fault. Insists they hug him and tell him they love him. The abuse and its sickening aftermath is really hard to "watch". Marci's mother enables Eddie and can't seem to leave him despite the fact that he is endangering the lives of their two young daughters. Life isn't easy, but Marci has a very strong sense of self and though she is emotionally harmed by the abuse in her family, she never seems to lose her center and her wit and imagination nourish her.

"When night comes," Marci says a few pages into the book. "That's when everything is best. Right before I go to sleep, I turn into Supergirl. Don't be surprised. It feels good to be her. When I'm Supergirl I can fly over people's heads, and San Lorenzo, where I live..."

Marci is a creative, vibrant and resourceful kid in community with an extended family, so, fortunately she gets to pick and choose from a number of role models, but none of them are openly queer, so she has to search for clues to figure out what it means that she likes girls. Still, she is decisive in her way. She knows she wants her dad out of the house. She knows she likes girls--though she has no idea that that is a thing that can happen, and so she wishes to become a boy. She has beautiful and often funny conversations with god. She is trying to make sense of her world which is peopled by a lot of wonderful and fractured and complex characters including aunts and uncles and cousins, priests (one of my favorite moments is Marci's first time in a confessional talking about liking girls) friends and crushes, her tough as nails knife-toting grandma who won't take any shit from Eddie and lets Marci and Corin know they are always welcome to come stay with her if things at home get too tough.

As the story goes on, Marci is more and more keenly aware that the consequences of her own and other people's actions aren't ever simple. Things that seem like a good idea, might play out in a very complex way and sometimes destructive way. Things that seem bad and wrong (that her father has a girlfriend on the side) has the strange effect of making her father less violent, so in a weird way, she wants him to keep seeing this woman, though it doesn't seem quite right. She gradually learns to be careful not to "rock the boat" with her parents because she sees what a fragile eco-system she is living in. How easily it is to attract the wrath of her father. How her mother, no matter how angry or resolved she might seem in any given moment, will simply never leave her father. It's both sad and relieving to see the Marci become more sophisticated in her thinking around the troubles at home.

There's a lot of humor in this story and Marci's curiosity and intelligence and resilience make this book really engaging. And I thought the representation of her mom--a parent who is caught up in the very compelling cycles of an abusive relationship and cannot do what is best for her and her children--was pretty spot on.

The opening of the story drags on at times and the ending seems to come a bit too quickly and some of the drama doesn't feel authentic. But I really appreciate the book as a whole and Marci's fierce insistence on being a kind of existential detective, and on caring about people even though she's been hurt. I thought the relationship between her and her sister was pretty compelling, though sometimes Corin's character wasn't too vividly drawn.

Sunny says

I really loved the two young girls in this book. They're facing a scary abusive dad, a mother who refuses to see their bruises and a whole lot of other complicated stuff. Marci is also trying to figure out what she needs to do for it to be okay to like girls. There's a lot going on but you always feel rooted in Marci's perspective which is always full of wry observations about the world as an 11 yr old. The heartbreak is real but the book gives off a child's resilience.

Faith Reidenbach says

The "Working Classics" imprint publishes stories by working-class people. In her debut novel, Trujillo describes a father who smacks around his 2 daughters and, in even sharper detail, describes the mother who can't bring herself to leave him. The doomed mother-daughter relationships are the focus, but the story is lighter than it sounds, in fact laugh-out-loud funny in places, because the main character, 11-year-old Marci,

is such a hoot and because there's a cast of lovable characters, including a knife- and rifle-toting grandma.

The novel is kin to *Bastard Out of Carolina*, but there's no sexual abuse. Also, *Bastard* isn't exactly a lesbian novel; this one is. Marci is already out to herself, although she can't imagine how she's going to attract girls since she lacks a "birdy."

Knowledge of Spanish would have helped me but wasn't required to appreciate this book. It was well paced except for a rushed, pat ending. I hope Trujillo will write another novel; coming-of-age stories are fine, but another novel from a Chicana lesbian perspective and such a good writer would be a treat.

In a better world this book would be required reading for prospective social workers, teachers, and others who wonder why kids don't "report abuse."

Chelsea says

This novel was kind of hard to read in that it details child abuse and it doesn't gloss over it the way other novels do. The topics it deals with, homosexuality, child abuse, infidelity, religion, are all seen through the eyes of an observant and naive 11 year old girl. I recommend it but I totally understand if it's maybe too hard for someone to read.

Chris says

First, I believe that "what night brings" is a good book. I believe this because this book shows how a character changes because of her dad. Also in this book Marci doesn't like Eddie because of the way Eddie treats both Marci and Corin. Next, the part that I think is the best is when Marci and Corin and also Randy tie up Eddie and torture him because of what he does to both Marci and Corin. Also this story is pretty good because Delia doesn't believe Eddie hits Marci and Corin not even when they have bruises. Finally this book is good because Marci turns out to like boys like Eddie but doesn't want to tell anyone about her secret.

Angelica Munoz says

Honestly, I would give this book a 4 out of 5 because in the novel Marci, an 11 year old girl who is living with a physically and emotionally abusive father while she attempts to understand her sexuality. I wish that the author could add a little glossary for those who're non-Spanish speakers because it's sometimes difficult to understand what they mean. Lastly, the reason why I give this novel a 4 out of 5 is because the book has its own powerful scenes, great characters, and heart wrenching lines.
