



Matilda's Last Waltz

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After the tragic death of her husband, Jenny travels to Churinga, a remote sheep-station in the Australian Outback that he intended to give to her for reasons she doesn't understand. Churinga is harsh and unforgiving, but also has its beauty...and its secrets. The more time Jenny spends on the farm, the more she is aware of the lingering presence of Matilda Thomas, Churinga's former owner, and the more she wonders just what she is doing there.

Matilda's Last Waltz Details

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MAPS - Booktube says

Je suis très mitigée à propos de ce livre. Il y a des éléments très forts et d'autres plutôt incohérents. L'histoire commence avec des éléments très durs qui parsèmeront le roman, particulièrement lorsque l'histoire de Mathilda sera dévoilée. Certains personnages ont des personnalités fortes et définies, tels Mervyn, un homme exécration, Ethan, un homme très amère et Mathilda, une femme-enfant très forte. Tandis que, par exemple, le personnage de Jenny me semble incomplet et contradictoire. D'ailleurs, sa relation avec Brett est juvénile et complètement hors propos.

J'ai l'impression que c'est le déroulement de l'histoire qui m'a le plus troublé. Certains éléments sont très durs et arrivent rapidement et d'autres sont tellement prévisibles que c'en est décevant.

Si j'ai aimé l'histoire de Mathilda (malgré l'obscénité et l'horreur), celle de Jenny m'a vraiment laissé de glace.

Au final, j'imagine que c'est un bilan mi-chaud, mi-froid. Pas un roman pour les âmes sensibles.

Perrine says

J'ai dévoré ce roman, même si j'ai eu du mal au départ à voir les liens entre les différents personnages... Mais on s'imagine bien l'atmosphère dans la chaleur oppressante du bush, avec la végétation de broussailles et d'épineux. Le final m'a coupé le souffle même on craint de voir nos craintes se réaliser...

Maja Azic says

Dobra ve?er ekipa. Evo mene ponovno sa ne?im novim. Ovoga puta rije? je o romanu Tamare McKinley Matildin posljednji valcer. Što re?i o ovom prekrasnom romanu koji opisuje patnju i život jako hrabrih žena? ?itan po drugi put i oba puta imam predivno mišljenje o ovoj knjizi. Roman je pisan jednostavnim stilom i brzo se ?ita. Idemo malo o sadržaju. Jenny nakon tragi?ne smrti sina i supruge ?eka iznena?enje. Njezin suprug je kupio imanje malo prije smrti i želio joj je pokloniti to imanje za ro?endan. Kada odlazi na imanje Jenny pronalazi dnevnik bivše gazdarice imanja Matilde o kojoj rijetko tko želi pri?ati. ?itanjem dnevnika Jenny polagano ulazi u svijet bivše gazdarice Matilde koji nikako nije bio lagan. Jenny otkriva ?ak i neke tajne koje ?e joj promjeniti život.

A sada ovako pošto ste mi jako dragi i odli?no mi je biti uz ljubitelje knjiga i književnosti ve?eras ide još jedan osvrt.

Primate velike pozdrave od Maje.

Dzenana Brkic says

This book is a sad, very, very sad story about one girl, Matilda, who lived in hardships all her life. Once she

finds her happiness, she will also find her greatest sorrow. Once you think Matilda will have a happy life after all, you will get knocked on the ground once again. Maybe someone else will have that happy ending when Matilda couldn't.

Australia is the place where I would like to go, and I really liked all the beautiful descriptions of the landscapes. I loved Jenny, and how the author put the whole thing together. This book left me speechless, indeed. I am shocked and so sad how some destinies are meant to go in the wrong direction, and how some good people, only due to the set of bad circumstances, get harmed along the way.

Babybook says

Svidjela mi se Matildina priča i to je ono što me motiviralo da završim ovu knjigu. Svidjeli su mi se i opisi Australije i tamošnjeg farmerskog života. Ono što kvari ukupan dojam su Jenny i njezina priča koja je potpuni višak, kao i hrpa klišeja i predvidljivost radnje koja na kraju umanjuje sve pozitivno u ovoj knjizi, čak vas ostavi pomalo ravnodušnom stanju.

Solveig says

This novel - I believe it is her first - was the first I ever read by Tamara McKinley. I picked it up at the flea market, and really didn't think it would be more than a quick read. I was mistaken: it turned out to be a very enjoyable novel, with interesting plot turns.

Tamara McKinley takes us back through time, first to Matilda Thomas in the 1930s. Matilda lives in the Australian outback with her father on the sheep station Churinga - the connecting element between her story and that of Jenny, who inherits Churinga forty years later.

Matilda is only thirteen when her mother dies and she has to keep the farm running and fend off the advances of her father. It is only when he dies that she gets a chance at life. She takes Churinga back to old prosperity by dedicating her entire life to the farm and neglecting her own life entirely: no friendships except with her employees, no family. When she finally meets a young man and marries him, the secret of her life is unveiled, and she dies from grief.

Forty years later, Jenny finds Matilda's diaries. Having grown up in the city, the diaries help her understand life on Churinga. But she also feels a connection between her and Matilda that is slowly being uncovered in the course of the novel - along with the dark secret that Matilda records in her dying moments.

The novel has several weak points, to be sure:

- The connection between Jenny and Matilda is very artificial. It borders on a miracle that Jenny should find the diaries and find out about Matilda and her own connection to Churinga.
- The romance between Jenny and Brett is absolutely predictable. We haven't even met him when we realize that they're inevitably going to be an item - and the silly way in which the writer attempts to show them as constantly quarrelling thinly veils her purpose. Besides, the novel wouldn't lose anything without a character as shallow and boring as Brett Wilson.
- This is perhaps generally true: The male characters are not too convincing. The female characters, most notably Matilda and Jenny's friend (whose name escapes me just now) are intricate and portrayed with all

their flaws.

Overall, Matilda's Last Waltz is a beautiful novel with wonderful descriptions of landscapes and great female characters. The plot is entertaining and never boring, in fact, it turned out to be difficult to put it down once I had started. However, there are a few flaws, which must result in four stars rather than five.

Letizia says

J'avais quelques réticences en lisant le résumé, mais partant en Australie à la fin de l'année j'avais envie d'en savoir un peu plus sur l'outback. Je l'ai dévoré de la première à la dernière page.

Dalila. says

This book was great ,but it is also a very tragic,sad story and shocking at the same time it is a story about Two women who are trying to stay strong no matter how life was cruel to them The story line is gripping and powerful The characters seem so real that both Sydney and the Outback are vividly described it will bring tears to your eyes from beginning to the end...

Esra says

Kocas'n'n ölümü ard'ndan, kendisine kalan miras sayesinde Churinga'ya yerle'en Jenny'nin sürprizlerle dolu hikayesi....

Elbette hikaye Jenny ile s'n'rl? kalm?yor....

Ayr?ca uzun zaman önce Churinga'da ya'am?? olan Matilda'n'n, hüznü dolu y?llar'n ard'ndan en sonunda mutlulu'u yakalamas'na fakat bununla birlikte en büyük ac?y? tatmas'na ?ahit oluyoruz...

?lk sayfalarda biraz s?k?id???m? itiraf ediyorum. O nedenle uzun bir süre elimi sürmedim. Ama 2. bölümden itibaren kitap resmen beni kendine esir etti... Jenny ile ilgili baz? ?eyleri az çok tahmin ediyordum ama Matilda'n'n günlü?ündeki o son k?s'm resmen bomba etkisi yaratt?. Beni çok etkiledi.

Duygular?m karmakar???k. Sinirlerim altüst oldu! Gözya?lar? da sel oldu! A?layacak yer ar?yormu?sam demek ki :D

Ama her ?eye ra?men çok be?endim!

Beatriz says

Reto #10 PopSugar 2018: Un libro sobre la muerte o la pena

Una novela que me atrapó de principio a fin; incluso, a partir del último tercio, me instalé y no me moví más hasta terminarla. No es una historia romántica como pudiera dar a entender su sinopsis, aunque tiene algunos toques al respecto, pero más al estilo del subgénero *landscape*, sobre todo en la forma que la autora nos sumerge en el clima y paisaje de Australia; llegué a sentir el alivio cada vez que se desataba la lluvia después

de años de sequía y me estremecí con las tormentas eléctricas secas.

La trama es dura y triste, y se entretiene alrededor de la vida de dos mujeres en períodos de tiempo diferentes (años '30 y '70, aproximadamente) y como éstas se vinculan a Churinga, una explotación ovejera hacia el interior de Australia. Por una parte está Matilda Thomas, cuyo amor por ese pedazo de tierra la hicieron luchar con increíble tenacidad prácticamente toda su vida para conservarla, soportando abusos, privaciones y soledad. Por otra parte y años más tarde, Churinga es heredada por Jeniffer Sanders, quien trata desesperadamente de sobreponerse a la trágica muerte de su marido y su hijo de dos años, mientras se enfrenta al misterio que rodeó la vida de Matilda.

Tamara McKinley escribe muy bien, sobre todo en como aborda los giros temporales y argumentales, hasta llegar a un final que si bien se puede sospechar, realmente impresiona e impacta en sus circunstancias, en que aborda temas con los que muy pocos autores se atreven.

Muy, pero muy recomendable.

Ena Hase?i? says

5-

Jako dobar roman sa dobro osmišljenom radnjom punom neo?ekivanih obrata i sa odli?nim opisima Australije. Zaista divno, na trenutak sam ?ak pomislila da se tamo i nalazim. Mala zamjerka za dijelove u kojima Jenny ?ita Matildin dnevnik i prepri?ava doga?aje iz njega u tre?em licu, mislim da bi mnogo bolje bilo da je dnevnik prenesen izvorno - u prvom licu. :) bez obzira na to velika preporuka!

Lucy says

I enjoyed it soooo much. I loved it so much I am afraid I can't write a review of this book.

I loved everything. Every little part, every conversation, every diary. I can't pick just one out of all these great and magnificent things.

I still don't know how did McKinley got such idea. It is so different from everything I have ever read.

And I guess this is it, because I can't go on talking al day long about how much this book surprised me in a good way. :)

Jo Haff says

Sous la plume de Tamara McKinley se dessinent plusieurs visages de l'Australie, celles des colons du début du siècle XX et ceux d'une nouvelle génération citadine des années 1950s.

J'ai lu cette saga de 550+ pages dans le train. J'avais envie de savoir davantage, de comprendre la malédiction, de connaître l'histoire de Mathilda, de savoir ce que Jenny, après de telles découvertes, ferait de Churinga, alors qu'il y avait des offres alléchantes pour sa vente.

À un moment, je me suis dit que c'était prévisible. On sait bien que le directeur de la station, le Brun ténébreux Brett Wilson, serait parfait pour aider Jenny à faire son deuil. On sait bien, que malgré toute la douleur, ils sont faits pour être ensemble. Mais on ne sait pas comment. Et on ne sait pas comment non plus, Mathilda scellera le destin de tous les zigotos de Churinga et comment son âme tourmentée hantera encore et encore les habitants de cette partie de la New South Wales... Trop de questions, trop de doutes, trop d'angoisses... C'est une histoire d'horreur (presque !), de fatalité, de cruauté, d'injustice... Tant de choses, tant de sentiments dans cet univers si particulier de terre rouge...
C'est un très très grand coup de coeur.

Paula Clark says

Loved it so much I couldn't put it down. It's been a little while since I've read a Tamara McKinley book and every time I do I'm reminded why I love her stories so much. Her vivid descriptions of the Australian Outback and the harshness of life out there is just amazing - she captures everything perfectly and implants it into your imagination.

Although I had Jenny's link to Churinga pretty much pegged in the second chapter and Finn's identity worked out right from the moment they met, I thoroughly enjoyed the journey I was taken on - even when it made me cry. There was so much hurt, devastation and courage between these pages, which was also wrapped up in a bit of a love story with a new beginning.

Aleksandra says

Nezaboravne životne priče dvije žene, Jenny koja se nakon životne tragedije nađe u ulozi vlasnice ogromnog imanja i Matilde, njegove prijašnje vlasnice. U dnevniku Jenny pronalazi, jednostavno vas uvuku u vrtlog protresnih događaja iz prošlosti, ali i onih uzbudljivih u sadašnjosti. Ko voli Australiju, a ja je volim, jednostavno će uživati u divnim opisima života u ovoj zemlji, a posebno njenom zaleđu toliko ranjivom uticajem prirode koja kroji okolnosti i sudbine života njenih stanovnika. Podsjetila me ova knjiga na još jednu davno čitanu australijsku, Grad kao Alice, koju također jako volim. Emocije koje autorica prenosi su duboke i stvarne, bez obzira da li se radi o teškim okolnostima Matildinog života, vraćanju radosti i ljubavi u život Jenny ili prirodnim pojavama koje neizbježno utiču na njihove živote. Zaista izvrstan roman, jedan od onih koji se čita bez daha i dugo pamti! Čista 5
