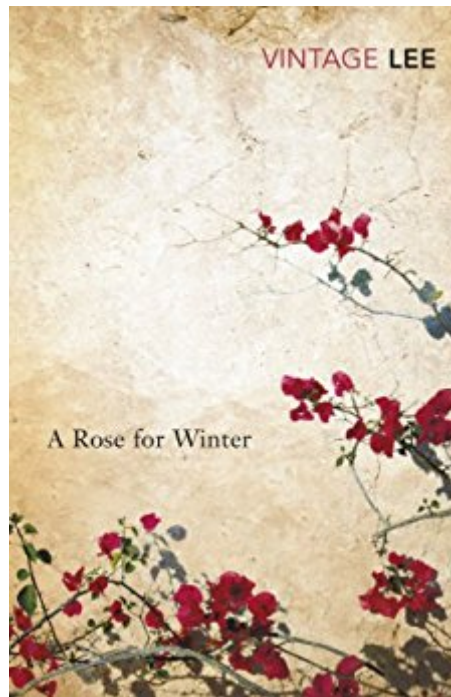


The book was found

A Rose For Winter (Vintage Classics)



Synopsis

Andalusia is a passion - and fifteen years after his last visit Laurie Lee returned. He found a country broken by the Civil War, but the totems of indestructible Spain survive: the Christ in agony, the thrilling flamenco cry-the pride in poverty, the gypsy intensity in vivid whitewashed slums, the cult of the bullfight, the exultation in death, the humour of hopelessness-the paradoxes deep in the fiery bones of Spain. Rich with kaleidoscopic images, *A Rose for Winter* is as sensual and evocative as the sun-scorched landscape of Andalusia itself.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Laurie Lee grew up in an English village in the 1920s. As a young man he set out on foot for Spain on what turned out to be a life altering adventure. It ended in an emotionally devastating way as he fled the Civil War only to return briefly as a volunteer for the Republicans. This too was an epic, deeply emotional experience. In "*A Rose for Winter*" he recounts his first visit back to the country he loves 15 years later, in the company of his beautiful wife. Inevitably this is a poignant and very moving account of the people and places he encounters on a relatively short but once again

dramatic visit. The backwardness and poverty is very evident to him, but he writes of the bleak conditions he observes with great compassion and humanity. These reflections, especially when he describes the hardscrabble lives of the children are one of the highlights of this beautifully narrated book. Another is his account of the two bullfights he attends where his sympathies are divided equally between the bulls and the young, inexperienced and frightened matadors. Finally his visit to the last village he lived in during the start of the Civil War and a later encounter with a former soldier who can no longer acknowledge his past for fear of retribution, bring out the deepest emotions - verging most unusually for Lee on bitter anger - as he exposes the deep scars and suffering left on ordinary people. Threaded through this is humour and inspired writing. "A Rose for Winter" is a short, but unforgettable read. This is no ordinary travel book, it is a profound love poem produced by a master of observation and feeling.

I am only sorry I did not read Laurie Lee earlier. I read this one and then promptly bought all the others and enjoyed each one more than the last. Writing of a time that is now past of course adds a certain pathos to the writing as I doubt whether today anyone could make a similar journey and experience such freedom and at the same time feel so safe relying only on the kindness of strangers so to speak. Apart from that the writing is so descriptive that one becomes easily immersed in the journey the author takes experiencing all the hardship and joy along the way. Well worth a read

Mr Lee did it again. In the tradition of "Cider with Rosie", his first book, he weaves his story using both skill and his memory of his travels. I recommend the reader to read "Cider with Rosie" first and then his other books in chronological order to get the most from this book. An amazing read. A true adventurer of XX century.

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