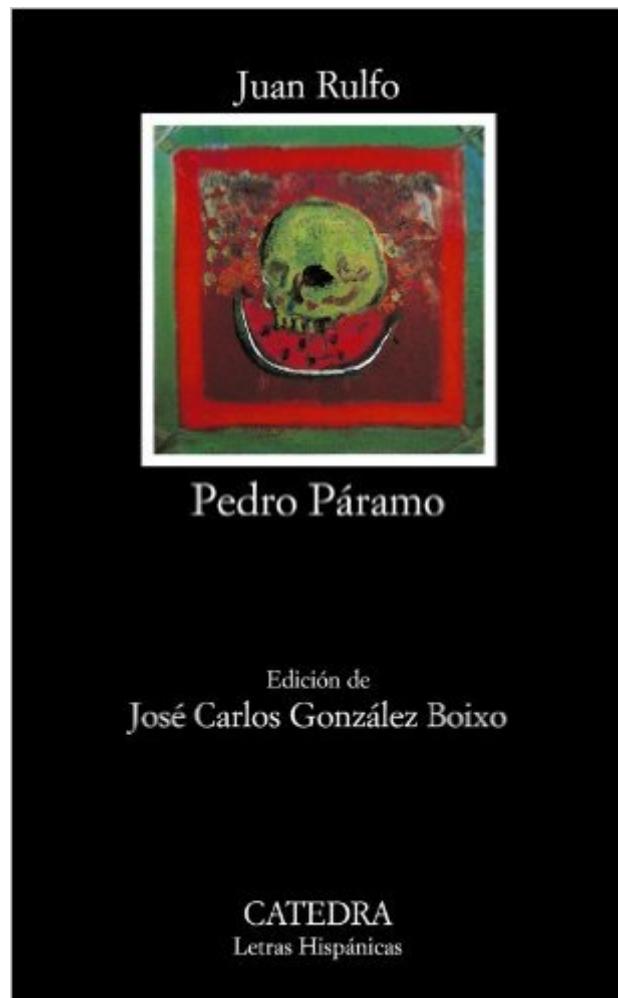


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Pedro Paramo (Letras Hispanicas) (Spanish Edition)



Synopsis

Un joven en busca de su padre perdido, un pueblo fantasma y un sin fin de personajes misteriosos y enigmáticos. Esta es la historia de Pedro Paramo, creada por el novelista y cuentista mexicano Juan Rulfo, quien nos presenta en esta intrigante novela ese sabor que caracteriza a los literatos latinos e hispanos: la pasión dramática. Esta apasionante historia nos relata la búsqueda de un muchacho por su padre, quien es el mismísimo Pedro Paramo. Y más que una búsqueda por un padre al cual nunca había visto, Juan Preciado, el muchacho que se aventura a la penumbra de un destino fatal, es la búsqueda prometida a la muerte de su madre, del regreso de aquello que le fue arrebatado, es decir, el cobro hacia su padre por haberles abandonado. / As one enters Juan Rulfo's legendary novel, one follows a dusty road to a town of death. Time shifts from one consciousness to another in a hypnotic flow of dreams, desires, and memories, a world of ghosts dominated by the figure of Pedro Paramo -lover, overlord, murderer. Rulfo's extraordinary mix of sensory images, violent passions and unfathomable mysteries has been a profound influence on a whole generation of Latin American writers.

Book Information

Series: Letras Hispanicas (Book 189)

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Catedra; Spanish Language edition (January 1, 2007)

Language: Spanish

ASIN: 8437604184

Product Dimensions: 4.5 x 0.5 x 7.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (121 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #86,528 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Libros en español > Literatura y ficción > Historia y Crítica > Crítica y Teoría #30 in Books > Libros en español > Biografías y memorias #81 in Books > Libros en español > Literatura y ficción > Género Ficción > Histórica

Customer Reviews

Nothing in literature can prepare you for the impact of Pedro Paramo for nothing in literature compares to this novel from Mexican author Juan Rulfo. Published in 1955, and Rulfo's only novel, Pedro Paramo is the story of Juan Preciado's quest to find both his roots and his father. Fulfilling his mother's dying wish, Juan sets out for the rural Mexican village of Comala, the village of his

mother's memories, the village where "she sighed about going back," and where Pedro Paramo, lover, overlord and murderer, spent his childhood and his youth. What Juan finds in Comala is something very different from what he expected, something very different from what the reader expects, for Comala is truly a village of the damned, a hell that one literally descends into, never to return. As Juan Preciado meets first one, then another of the inhabitants of Comala, he comes to an astonishing revelation--everyone in Comala, including his father, is dead. The second half of Pedro Paramo concerns itself with the reasons why Comala became a village of the dead and the emphasis then shifts to the enigmatic character of Susana San Juan, the only woman Pedro Paramo ever truly loved and the one who was forever denied him. Although few details are provided about Susana San Juan, we come to see her as the epitome of two archetypes: the heavenly goddess and the overtly sexual madwoman. When she dies and ascends into heaven, in front of Pedro Paramo's own eyes, the fate of Comala and its residents becomes forever sealed. Although this small book may seem to lack structure (there are no chapter breaks), it is highly structured. It is, however, a structure of silences, hanging threads, truncated scenes, and even non-time.

Author Juan Rulfo's extraordinarily powerful novel, "Pedro Paramo," captures the essence of life in rural Mexico during the last years of the 19th century, and the beginning of the 20th, like no other work of fiction. Here, in a mere 124 pages, the author vividly portrays the radical social and economic changes which spurred the dramatic migration of the campesinos from ranchos and villages to the urban slums, where they could no longer live off the land, nor find work. Ghost towns mark the places where many had once flourished. I first read this masterpiece in English while living in Guadalajara, Mexico, over 25 years ago. I was absolutely captivated by the haunting story and by the fascinating characters. I reread the book a few years later, in Spanish, and was able to appreciate, first-hand, the authors skillful, nuanced use of language. After a series of surrealistic dreams, which turned my thoughts southward, I recently picked up another copy and began to read once more of the dry, deserted streets of Comala and the man who doomed the town and its inhabitants. I am amazed that the novel remains as fresh, magical and poignant as it did the first time around. I think Juan Rulfo's masterpiece takes on depth and texture with each reading. And it certainly proves true the maxim, "Good/great things come in small packages." Pedro Paramo, the son of failing landowners, was consumed with love for Susana San Juan. This intense passion lasted a lifetime. Eventually, Pedro's aging father and family died, and Susana moved away. Alone and lonely, he assumed control of the estate and unscrupulously did whatever he had to, fair and foul, to amass a fortune and build his empire.

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