



Bitter Grounds

Sandra Benítez

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Bitter Grounds

Sandra Benítez

Bitter Grounds Sandra Benítez
Winner of the 1998 American Book Award

Spanning the years between 1932 and 1977, this beautifully told epic is set in the heart of El Salvador, where coffee plantations are the center of life for rich and poor alike. Following three generations of the Prieto Clan and the wealthy family they work for, this is the story of mothers and daughters who live, love, and die for their passions.

Bitter Grounds Details

Date : Published August 15th 1998 by Picador (first published 1997)
ISBN : 9780312195410
Author : Sandra Benítez
Format : Paperback 464 pages
Genre : Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, Cultural, Latin American

 [Download Bitter Grounds ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Bitter Grounds ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Bitter Grounds Sandra Benítez

From Reader Review Bitter Grounds for online ebook

Book Concierge says

This is a sweeping historical epic covering three generations of two families: the Tabors, who are aristocratic land-owners; and the Prieto clan, the servants/peasants employed by the Tabors. Through these families the reader learns something of the history of El Salvador from about 1932 to 1975, including the role of the Church, the military, and the influence of the United States on the politics of this nation. But the main story line of the novel remained focused on these two families and their interaction over several generations.

I really enjoyed the way Benítez showed these two classes interacting. As much as they felt they were different and as much as they were kept apart (or at least the upper class tried to separate themselves from the lower class), they were inextricably linked and their lives held many parallels. Mothers and daughters disagreed; husbands betrayed their wives; children refused to listen; secrets were kept; and everyone was addicted to the radio soap opera, Los Dos (and yet never recognized how that story line also paralleled their real-life stories).

This won the American Book Award in 1998.

Irene says

This is a version of the classic upstairs-downstairs story line set in El Salvador. Four generations of two wealthy coffee plantation owners and corresponding generations of servants who work in one of their households populate this saga that spans from the 1930s to the 1970s. Although armed uprisings frame this novel, it did not turn out to be nearly as political as I anticipated. Rather, births and deaths, love, friendship and betrayals, new business ventures, cooking meals and loyalty between master and servants dominate the pages. For those who enjoy reading of the rich and those who support their life style, this is the perfect book. Any reader not familiar with the social tension in El Salvador in the 20th century may find this interesting. But if you are looking for clever prose, insightful writing or a unique story line, this will be disappointing.

Emma Deplores Goodreads Censorship says

Argh! I need a book from El Salvador, but I just can't do it--the prose is so cliché-ridden and disjointed and all-around awful. Whoever called this "beautifully told" should be fired.

Janet says

...

Tara Chevrestt says

What I was expecting: A historical fiction novel following three decades of women and showing the world of coffee plantations, the workers struggles, and the history of El Salvador.

What I got: A telenovela following three decades of "desperate housewives" and showing the world of extramarital affairs and who is having whose baby.

The conclusion: I didn't love it. In all fairness, the beginning was great. I was thoroughly enjoying the life and struggles of Mercedes. But when Mercedes died, it all became about spoiled rich Elena and her cheating spouse and then Mercedes's daughter running after a married man and all these women started having babies. So and so is in love with so and so, but she is having so and so's baby who is married to yet another so and so... and it goes on. I bailed with a quarter yet to go. If I want a telenovela I get the Spanish channel.
