

The ring of Uriel: Comments and opinions

AYENA NEGRO SOBRE BLANCO. FEBRUARY 2012

I liked, personally, to come across with a realistic plot, credible characters and easily recognizable scenes. It's not just that the story happens mainly in Madrid, but also when other places appear, like Moscow or Rome, the feeling is the same, because the descriptions of places and circumstances or situations are magnificent. About the characters, they are very well described. Even though I want to emphasise that the main character is the organized crime in different scales. On one hand, apparently "the bad guys" are the russian Mafia gangsters (with exceptional help from an english lawyer's office related to the most dangerous international organized crime networks). Then we come across with a number of main and supporting characters, but they all have something in common: we perceive them as real. About the Mafia gangsters, they match the archetypes of those we constantly hear about in the TV news or the newspapers; but also, there are those who seemed "bad" too but they're not, because they have some moral motivations that have brought certain consequences. But beyond the first impressions, what lies beneath is that there's always somebody much worse, with an inexhaustible ability to do evil, somebody who knows to pull the strings of power and there's not much you can do against them.

About the style, the traditional ways are followed: Third-person narrative, omniscient, with a simple vocabulary, fluent and direct, where dialogues and almost cinematographic descriptions abound. The chronological narrative is linear, although occasionally the dialogues refer to other times, other moments in the lifes of the characters that help us to know them better. The progress of the story is fast, as usually in this genre. The narrative is divided in chapters, as usual, but that's just one more incentive, since on one hand that allows you to make the necessary breaks, but on the other it leaves you with the need of reading more and more pages.

CONCLUSIONS:

That novel invites you to take a look on what is most shameless and lewd in our society, but also on what is most real. Let's not forget how often we have our breakfast while watching news like that, starred by some kind of criminal network that bears no resemblance to the legendary story that Mario Puzo created in his day and with wich he

succeeded to convince us that even the Camorra (the Neapolitan mafia) has its own code of honour. And the most sad thing about that is not that this kind of strange people exist, but the fact that there is a lot of people who defend them: financial wolves ready to help them for a purely economic reason. These are the worst of all, the ones who travel in private jets or limousines and who open lawyer offices to which we, the common people, don't have access.

On the other hand, the novel is absolutely addictive from the first pages to the end. It keeps you in an anguish, waiting for the police to find out the plot which has been gradually revealed to you and you can't wait to see it happen.

The rhythm, in turn, is frenetic and all kind of situations combine described with a clear meticulousness, from the most inhumane tragedy to the most pure and faithful feelings. In conclusion, a thrilling novel that will not leave you cold.

LEER ES VIAJAR. MAY 2012

It's been a while since I've read a thriller for the last time and the truth is I enjoyed it a lot. I got hooked from the first page on since the action starts almost from page one.

As soon as I started, what attracted my attention right away was the way the author describes things, it introduces you immediately in the situation. It seemed almost like I was walking through Madrid by myself. I also appreciated the quality of the descriptions in the moments of action, achieving to keep the suspense the whole time. That's important for me, since not every author gets that. Sometimes it got really on my nerves, until the situation finished. What also attracted my attention was that, the narrator, in third person, gives information about what is going to happen, fact that gets you hooked even more, if possible. He outlines the characters little by little, leaving us curious to get to know them better and to know how they are.

There's Marie, a dancer that witnessed the murders of the three Russian men. She's an unassuming, innocent girl that came to Madrid to be a ballet dancer.

Lena, Marie's flatmate, is contrary. She's a colder, more experienced person hardened by her experiences. She came from Russia a few years ago. She knows how tough life can be. She's in love with an impossible man and suffers because of that.

At first they seem an antithesis. But they're both going to surprise us.

Other character that got into my good graces is Piluca, a police girl in internship who tries to stand out in a "men's world". The truth is she's a very close character who helps you to identify with her.

Then there's Piedad, a fortune-teller who doesn't seem to be a phony. That provides a lot of mystery to the story, since she introduces some esoteric matters. With her we start to see the meaning of the novel's title. The ring of Uriel.

And now a person that is principal to me. Lilith. Her name already says a lot, since it comes from Adam's first wife, who left the Garden of Eden voluntarily. She's described like a very beautiful woman, with long and curly hair, usually red-haired and, sometimes, winged. In the novel, except for the wings, she seems to have it all. She's a cold woman, calculating, worships the devil,... You could say she is the evil. But far from repulsing me, I felt more and more attracted to her and she made me ask myself: What does that woman hide? What does she want?

But don't you think that's all. The author combines russian Mafias with satanic sects, love, biological weapons,... in an amazing and consistent way. It doesn't seem forced or shoehorned. Really impressive.

The satanic matters attract my attention (and also scare me a little). The truth is it makes the novel gain different tinges we're not used to.

MORENO SISTER IN CIAO. JUNE 2012

JUST REVENGE?

In the madrilenian dawn, in the high zone of the Castellana Avenue, wich is the business centre during the day, a selected and elitist night club suffers a brutal shoot-out attack. Several men die and the aggressor, while he was running away, is seriously injured by one of the drivers at the door. Everything pointed to a score settling between rival clans of the russian Mafia, but the truth is much more complicated. Marie, who was at the club that night, and her friend and flatmate Lena got into something much bigger than the murders of the Mafia guys. Something much darker and scarier.

With them, a russian son of a spanish Civil War exiled woman, his best mates, a lawyer office with a ruthless and professional woman who hides a terrible secret, a fortune-teller that almost doesn't seem one but who guesses right what nobody else does, a police detective who starts to find out something he's not ready for... "Every character reveals a dramatic story that comes from Russia and a place in plain city centre that hides between it's walls something devilish, something forbidden and gloomy, with large and, sometimes , powerful ramifications"

The stories entwine, getting in and out of the action, providing successfully vigour and tension to the novel, that make you want keep reading to know how it ends. Nothing is what it seems at first, what is the most appealing fact. There are surprises and surprising alliances that contribute to turn the 445 pages of the book in a fantastic rollercoaster that keeps the interest, not decreasing even for a second.

VERY DEEP CHARACTERS

If there's one thing that catches attention it's the way Tito del Muro gives life to the characters of his novel. One way or another, their personalities and their names will tell us a lot about them. They're outlined very good, we're constantly getting information about them but it's their actions wich tell the most. And there's a vague line between the kindness and the meanness of some of them until certain things are explained. In other cases, there's no doubt. Since the first image we get we feel the latent danger and everything what happens next just confirms that idea.

Marie is the daughter of a dance academy director in Paris, wich belonged to her grandmother, a first dancer of the imperial russian ballet. Marie couldn't stand classic ballet, she wanted to try something new and, after fighting with her mother, she came to Spain and started to dance for a living, doing castings and joining dance groups. Her grandmother keeps sending her money and that's how she survives. Because of her work she sees herself involved in the club gunfight and suffers a severe shock. Besides, that fact will make her have terrible experiences.

Lena is russian and she's always moved on the edge of legality, both in her country of origin and in Spain. She's a high level prostitute and uses her relationships and her contacts to help her russian friends who ended up in Madrid with very specific plans. In love with Ángel (I'll talk about him later) since forever, she'll do anything to make his mission easier.

Ángel is the son of a spanish exiled, who arrived to the former Soviet Union as a war refugee when she was a little girl. He worked in the KGB and in soviet and russian Intelligence agencies and knows the Mafias very well. Now he is the chased one, but also the pursuer. He moves constantly outside the law. He knows Lena since he was little, but for him she's just a friend he adores. He had to do with the gunfight and his story is related to those who died and those who are still alive.

Mijail belongs to the russian Mafia and escaped death in the club. The money and power his position gives him don't prevent him from messing things up in many occasions because of his arrogance and his lack of sense. He doesn't mind to knock down whoever

is necessary nor to break the law, because he thinks he's above of it: It doesn't even exist for him. Generally he's a overbearing bigmouth who loses his head easily over pretty women, what causes him trouble, even with his people.

Lilith Beanshee is a lawyer in brilliant circles, but she's also tough and ruthless. A red-haired beauty and very dangerous. Behind her professional facade and her impressive experience, she hides a devilish and terrible secret, something almost inconceivable nowadays. What attracted my attention was the name Tito del Muro has given her because, as many of you may know, Lilith is the name of a legendary figure of the Ancient Mesopotamia, who was the lover of demons and ended up turned into a witch that kidnapped babies from their cribs and adopted the shape of a succubus to conceive children with men while they sleep. She's always represented as a very beautiful woman, red-haired and winged. And the "banshees" (that phonetically sounds a lot like "Beanshee") were female spirits of the ancient Ireland, spirits that only appeared to announce the death of a beloved person with their mournings. As you see, with just the name a lot is being told about the character and it seemed a good move to me.

Damián Ferrán is the policeman who from the beginning is in charge of the murders in the club, the first one to interrogate Marie and who, little by little, finds out what is hidden behind the crimes and the strange things that start to happen around the girl. He's an upright, trustworthy policeman who does his job very well and who works his heart out to know what's happening.

A BOOK THAT'S WORTH IT

I already told you the book is very entertaining, one of those you start to read and you get hooked waiting for what is going to happen. The frenetic start of what initially seemed a simple story of murders and Mafias and black money, mixed with revenge that came from Russia, turns into something much darker, much less concrete but also more dangerous.

It's not just a Mafia guys story, about revenge or blood. Behind of it is something you can barely catch a brief glimpse of without shuddering.

The main characters won't be aware of it until the reality drags them there. "The ring of Uriel" refers to a ring that both Marie and Ángel have, despite they don't know each other and wick, as the tradition tells, is a very strong protection against evil forces. Uriel was one of the seven archangels called "the light of God" and considered the angel of Sunday and of poetry. The never-ending battle between good and evil, shady businesses, the most

recent story of the secret services, crimes for money or power go hand in hand with fragments of stories of love, loyalty and friendship.

In addition, the edition of the book is fantastic, hard cover and wonderful paper, so the reading becomes a double pleasure. A very recommendable reading with which you'll surely have a good time. A great discovery.

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It has been a long while since I haven't enjoyed a novel so much. I could summarize it in two words: real and supernatural.

I wasn't bored even for a second while I was reading it and my interest was constantly growing.

The descriptions, although there were plenty of them, were not tedious. They turn it into a book that makes you "see" what you are reading, without being boring. The descriptions are quite important to me, since when there are too many of them, I get bored, but when they appear as deserved like Tito del Muro has used them, they make you enjoy an excellent, almost magical book.

The background of the story is real and supernatural at once, a mystery story in which the police is on the trail of a murderer, who isn't just a ruthless killer, he's a hero. I just finished reading it and the truth is I can't find the words to let you know you have to read it if you have the chance. The story starts making us believe that the murderers are just a settling of scores, but the story progresses in an incredible way that grips you and you won't put the book away until the mysteries are solved.

The supernatural part of the book fascinated me, since Mr. Del Muro makes a nod to the very well known story of the Countess Bathory, called "the bloody countess". If you don't know the Countess Bathory, I tell you she's a woman who, in order to get eternal youth, bathed in her young maids' blood, for what she gained the title of being one of the first vampires in history. The nod to that woman I've found in that book satisfied me a lot, because I have never seen two topics mixed with so much success.

But let's stop talking about what is supernatural. The book teaches us a lot of values and shows us two very opposed sides to see it clearly. On one side is the devil himself and on the other the self-same good, and we can go finding out who's on which side.

The story keeps the suspense until the end like every good crime novel (at least, I'd classify it like one) and the author has kept the rhythm of the story constant, what seems as important to me as the descriptions, since it keeps you constantly intrigued and doesn't

get boring as it reveals everything in its proper time. It provides us the dose of revelation little by little.

While I was finishing the book, I got so nervous I couldn't keep still. I even had to stand up and drink a glass of water because I was a bundle of nerves. Because I really wanted to know what was happening and to write the review to share with you what the book has transmitted to me. It's a so intriguing story I recommend you to read it with enough time ahead, since you won't put the book away in a while. In my experience, when I opened the book at night to read and my eyes were sinking because I was so tired, I fought to keep them open in order to keep reading. A really recommendable book.

DELETREA DE ERITREA JUNE 2012

Definitely I want to congratulate the author for producing such a great novel for so many reasons...

From now on and, at least, to date, if somebody asks me to recommend a good thriller, I won't have to think twice: "The ring of Uriel" by Tito del Muro. I want to highlight the author's way of describing, since thanks to that you live the story intensely. The descriptions don't overwhelm you, they're just as they deserve to be... at least for my liking.

(Back)

A thriller full of frenetic action, intrigue, passion, emotion, magic and romance, written in a fluent prose that fascinates and thrills from the very beginning.

What starts looking just like one more score-settling between rival russian Mafia clans mixes up with other stories from the past that explain the present.

Lena and Marie are two girls who share a flat in Madrid and whose stories contrast radically, but that will see themselves involved in acts of bloodshed, victims of a sinister conspiracy. The text is filled with other characters that provide magic and mystery to the plot, guaranteeing the suspense until the end and that surprises you more than once. In addition of constantly keeping the tension and the interest, this novel shows ideas about appearances, how complicated the human being is and it's motivations in the endless battle between good and evil.