



The Book of Lamentations (Classic, 20th-Century, Penguin)

By Rosario Castellanos

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Set in the highlands of the Mexican state of Chiapas, *The Book of Lamentations* tells of a fictionalized Mayan uprising that resembles many of the rebellions that have taken place since the indigenous people of the area were first conquered by European invaders five hundred years ago. With the panoramic sweep of a Diego Rivera mural, the novel weaves together dozens of plot lines, perspectives, and characters. Blending a wealth of historical information and local detail with a profound understanding of the complex relationship between victim and tormentor, Castellanos captures the ambiguities that underlie all struggles for power.

A masterpiece of contemporary Latin American fiction from Mexico's greatest twentieth-century woman writer, *The Book of Lamentations* was translated with an afterword by Ester Allen and introduction by Alma Guillermoprieto.

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