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Anna In The Tropics



Synopsis

Starring Jimmy Smits, this poetic Pulitzer Prize winning play captures 1929 Florida at a time when cigars are still rolled by hand and lectors are employed to educate and entertain the workers. The arrival of a new lector is a cause for celebration. But when he reads aloud from Anna Karenina, he unwittingly becomes a catalyst in the lives of his avid listeners, for whom Tolstoy, the tropics, and The American Dream prove a volatile combination. --This text refers to the Audio Cassette edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 1 hour and 49 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Original recording

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Audible.com Release Date: January 3, 2006

Language: English

ASIN: B000E1ZA5K

Best Sellers Rank: #18 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Dramas & Plays > Regional & Cultural > Caribbean & Latin American #21 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Latin America #51 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Drama

Customer Reviews

Winner of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, *Anna in the Tropics* recreates the Cuban-American community in Ybor City, Florida, in 1929, with its color, its cockfights, its close relationships, and its love of romance. Santiago and his wife Ofelia own a cigar factory, where the sometimes illiterate workers roll cigars and, to keep from becoming bored, hire a "lector" to read to them. Romantic stories spice up their lives, and since they have finished *Wuthering Heights*, they now look forward to a new novel, *Anna Karenina*, read by a new lector, Juan Julian. Conchita, one of the workers whose marriage with Palomo has grown stale, soon finds herself reenacting *Anna Karenina*, as she has a passionate affair with Juan Julian, and then tells Palomo about it. Marela, daughter of Santiago and Ofelia, also fantasizes about Juan Julian. Reality intrudes on romance, however, when Santiago's gambling on cockfights results in partial ownership of the factory going to Cheche, his half-brother, who now wants to introduce machines to speed up production. He also wants to eliminate the lector, to the workers' further dismay. In language that is often lyrical and sometimes fanciful, the action unfolds, with discussions evolving about the nature and importance of literature,

the enduring values of their culture, the importance of love, and the possible effects of "progress" on traditional values. The characters, though not fully drawn and sometimes too obviously following plot lines of Anna Karenina, are, nevertheless, interesting and unusual as they try to do the best they can during trying times.

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