



The Islands

Carlos Gamarro , Jimmy Burns (Introduction)

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Buenos Aires, 1992. Hacker Felipe Félix is summoned to the vertiginous twin towers of magnate Fausto Tamerlán and charged with finding the witnesses to a very public crime. Rejecting the mission is not an option. After a decade spent immersed in drugs and virtual realities, trying to forget the freezing trench in which he passed the Falklands War, Félix is forced to confront the city around him – and realises to his shock that the war never really ended.

A detective novel, a cyber-thriller, an inner-city road trip and a war memoir, *The Islands* is a hilarious, devastating and dizzyingly surreal account of a history that remains all too raw.

The Islands Details

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Author : Carlos Gamarro , Jimmy Burns (Introduction)

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From Reader Review The Islands for online ebook

Francisco del Amo says

¡¡¡Es excelente!!,

Los fanáticos de Amis, Burgess, Caicedo o Así van a darse un panzada.

Te lleva hasta las venas de la última Argentina y te imprime en la cabeza escenas y personajes inolvidables: el bestial Tamerlán y su representación de los noventas, la última locura de la dictadura descripta desde las heladas trincheras llenas de colimbas, sus consecuencias que derivan con nuestro protagonista en el Borda y diez años más tarde el deambular de los ex combatientes, la elaboración de un videojuego fascinante (donde se puede ganar la guerra), la investigación principal teñida de accionar policial setentoso y la historia de la torturada Gloria y la chance de un futuro posible sin que la rana se convierta en príncipe.

A pesar de ser ficción cuenta más de la real guerra de Malvinas y sus efectos que cualquier otra aproximación.

Debbie says

I thought that I would find this interesting - it was awful.

luchadelabici says

Impecables los capítulos referidos a la guerra de Malvinas...

En todo el relato, ubicado 10 años después, Gamerro se pasa en descripciones, sin duda se podría contar la misma historia en muchas menos páginas.

Pese a esto, Las Islas es una gran novela, la mejor que leí sobre Malvinas... la guerra, la vuelta a Buenos Aires de los sobrevivientes, las secuelas que deja en los soldados y como sigue desplegando su violencia 10 años después.

Tuck says

a fantastical novel of veterans of the malvinas war, massive ptsd, and our hero is one, he still has part of his helmet in his head. he gets wicked headaches. he's also an expert hacker in 1992. so then he gets a job as a 'pi' for a rich rich man who is looking for all the witnesses to his youngest son's keffuffle in where , just maybe, his son murdered another man by throwing him out the 30th floor window of his office, while 25 or is it 26, people watch.

antics begin.

the city, the river, the islands, and of course the torturers, all conspire against our fellas felipe felix completing his task, alive. and asks the important question, if your reality is a murderous, insane, implacable horror show run by sadists and nazis, is it so wrong to be one yourself?

for all noir fans.

Thomas says

some of the genre fiction influences don't always work, and there's a few too many 'contemporary americanisms', but also a lot of good stuff in here. especially good are all the bits about nazis and wacky argentianian nationalist theories and the diary that's a parody of anthropological writing about 'savages' but it's about the falkland islanders.

Ms. Caprioli says

I read this book in Spanish, so my review is in Spanish as well.

Debo reconocer qué no sé lo hubiera leído de no ser por la recomendación de mi amiga Andrea. Me resultó un libro raro, estoy acostumbrada a leer ficción histórica mucho más lineal. Con la excusa de seguir las pistas de una investigación pseudo policial, vamos descubriendo cómo la Guerra de Malvinas dejó tantas pero tantas cicatrices en el inconsciente colectivo de los argentinos. Me temo que podemos terminar el libro pero no quitarnos de la cabeza los traumas de una guerra que no debimos haber peleado.

Erika Schoeps says

I won this book in a Goodreads First Reads giveaway.

I don't know what this book is. It's a confusing, whirlwind of a mess. There are a ton of complicated, confusing plot threads, and I couldn't keep them straight. Also they appeared to be combining but I was never sure how they were even connected. I quit 100 pages in, when I got into the ridiculous battle scenes. Page after page of grandiose virtual battle scenes that had no purpose to the plot, and was literally just the character playing a video game and suffering a minutely described migraine. I felt like this book was simply going for shock value as the character ate his own vomit repeatedly and even slurped it off the floor, described in painful intricacy. Seriously? By the way, the entire book is written in a style of unnecessary detail, as every object and event is written with insane detail. All I was doing was slogging through descriptive words as I waited for the actual plot to kick in. The only redeeming quality I found was the character development. The characters were enjoyable to read about, and were portrayed through behavior and action instead of painful description.

Don't read this book. What a horror.

Charles says

I received this book in goodreads giveaway and it took me the better part of a year to complete it. That was a mistake as the plot is convoluted and I probably re-read sections more than I would have had I have just say

down and worked my way through it the first time around.

I thought the book with its fantastical, metaphorical flourishes would appeal to me but I confess I didn't really like it at all. Despite being fascinated by Argentina and the Falklands war and the military junta of the time with all of its crimes and horrors, I just couldn't get into this book and it was a step too far for me to enjoy it.

Litro Magazine says

Litro Magazine review by Bella Whittington: <http://www.litro.co.uk/?p=35783>

Also interview with the author: <http://www.litro.co.uk/2012/11/carlos...>

!Tæmbu?u says

KOBOBOOKS

Reviewed by The Guardian (10 Jul 2012)

Brian Byrne says

A fascinating read. The gritty realism of the battlefields recollections and slum descriptions contrasted with the surreal decadence of the towers. His writing is compelling and once I started, made the book hard to put down.

Jonathan Hockey says

Certain parts of it I really liked, other parts were a bit more meandering for me. Overall a very interesting read though.

Steve says

I reviewed this at *Necessary Fiction* in July 2012.

Lucas Rentero says

Una extraña novela donde nuevamente se mezclan ciudad, historia, angustia y locura como no sucedía desde los años 30. Un cocktail clásico en versión contemporánea.

Stas says

<http://www.svobodanews.ru/content/tra...>

acc. to the Russian story in the link above, an English translation is coming out just now. But where is the English listing on Goodreads. Damn you Amazon, my dark cloud-computed overlord.
