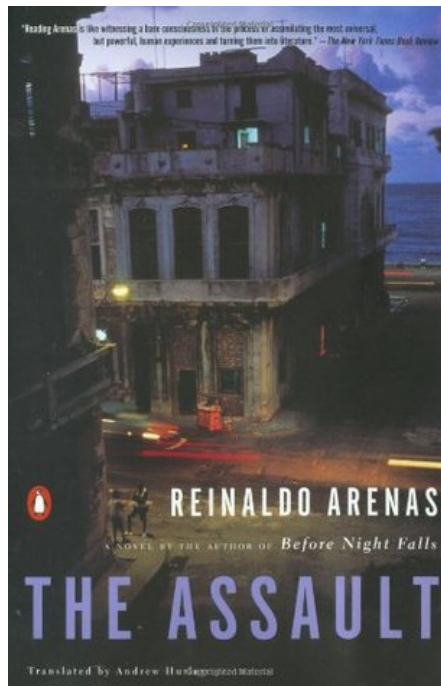




The Assault

Reinaldo Arenas , Andrew Hurley (Translator) , Thomas Colchie (Introduction)

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In this, the final volume in the series of five novels that constitute his "secret history of Cuba", **Reinaldo Arenas** paints a harrowing, and at times boldly entertaining, Kafka-esque picture of a dehumanized people living in a world where homosexuality is a crime punishable by death and a cockroach hunt makes for a national holiday. Narrated by a hate-filled government torturer who has become an agent for the "Bureau of Counterwhispering", "**The Assault** follows his travels through a blackly humorous shadowland as he winnow out whisperers, sexual deviants, and dissidents of every sort--until memory has been banished and spoken language has been nearly forgotten.

The Assault Details

Date : Published June 1st 1995 by Penguin Books (first published 1990)

ISBN : 9780140157185

Author : Reinaldo Arenas , Andrew Hurley (Translator) , Thomas Colchie (Introduction)

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Genre : Fiction, Literature, Science Fiction, Dystopia, Contemporary

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From Reader Review The Assault for online ebook

Jason McDowell says

Just read this for a class. Definitely not the best thing I have read in this genre.

Despite the weirdness of the satire and the unbelievable world Arenas builds here, I had the ending pegged about 40 pages in. The main character is completely unlikable. The good news is you can read it in a few hours.

To describe it simply, I'd call it violent, predictable, and longer than it needed to be.

Boris says

Very different than anything I've ever read. Worth reading I think.

Robb Todd says

Dark and funny--and a warning. He may have had a different government in mind when he wrote it, but governments change and this book has relevance for many he might never have intended it for.

Steve says

Big Brother goes to Cuba. An acid-filled headbutt to the face of totalitarianism. A country (obviously Cuba)in which all-out slaughter of the citizens is carried out as punishment for the slightest of crimes by the narrator.

Kai'l says

in a word: violent.

Chelsie Hinds says

Didn't enjoy it, except for when it was finally over. It felt like it went on forever and I lost sight of the point. There are a lot of redeeming qualities -- the use of chapter headings that subvert the universe within the book, the reverse Oedipal complex, the really obvious symbolism regarding Castro's Cuba -- but not enough to make me recommend this to anyone. I imagine Arenas's other works are much better and surprisingly enough, I think I'd like to read them.

Kara Crabb says

Cockroaches, anal sex, and fun!

Ariel says

I'm updating this to five stars instead of four after a second read, and because we have been living breathing eating pissing fucking this book for an upcoming dance, 3-6 hours a day and you better get to liking it. Brilliant hallucinatory terrifying hilarious vision of oppressive society, i.e. Castro's Cuba...breeding permits...patriotic irrigation...cockroach-stomping holidays...TOTAL ANNIHILATION...grrrrr grrrr HOORAY

P says

Reads like a mix of We, American Psycho, Dead/Alive and the back half of The Futurological Congress.

It's also the final of apparently 5 books the guy wrote about Castro's Cuba. Be interesting to see if he leads from a recognizable society into the brutal mutant hellscape nightmare of The Assault, or if that's just the setting, get used to it.

Layla Martínez says

Una de las distopías más terribles que haya leído nunca. El Estado no solo controla a los individuos, sino que se convierte en los individuos. Se elimina hasta el vocabulario, que queda reducido a veinte palabras, y los héroes de la patria son los que han olvidado el lenguaje. Hay fragmentos del libro que son capaces de provocarte reacciones físicas, hasta casi la náusea. Me ha recordado a "Plop" de Rafael Pinedo, aunque en realidad sería al revés, claro, porque la trilogía de Pinedo es posterior.

Charlaralotte says

I got the socio-political satire. And then it went on and on and on, with not much change or variation, and I lost interest.

This could have easily been a short story since you really don't want to spend much time with the main character. He has no redeeming qualities, and unlike the poor people in his country, you as the reader can escape his persecution quite easily by shutting the damn book.

Jerry says

Not a great book, a few interesting moments, but a strange kaffian book that is just a part of the larger oeuvre.

Iván says

Qué novela esta: tres frases le dan a uno la bienvenida a la historia, lo van dejando acomodar a paso lento en la trama, y de golpe, en una frase más, una fuerza que llega sin decir aquí voy lo coge a uno con la misma firmeza con la que uno sostiene el libro y se queda ahí hasta la última palabra: “La última vez que vi a mi madre fue detrás del Gran Consolidado de las Madres Patrias. Ella estaba inclinada, recogiendo unos palos. Estaba así, de espaldas, agachada, un poco como derrengándose por el esfuerzo que hacía para cargar con los palos. No perdí tiempo y me le abalancé para matarla”. Quien habla es un agente de la Contrasusurración, un tipo que se complace aniquilando gente por cualquier motivo, siempre justificado en los ideales patrios, mientras busca a su mamá para acabar con ella. Por si las dudas, ya en el primer párrafo, además de esa primera información, se dan pistas sobre el ambiente totalitario en que se desarrolla su búsqueda: “La cabrona; parece que me miraba con el ojo del culo, pues antes de que yo pudiese reventarla se volvió asustada, no por mí, sino por las leyes del Reprimero y sus agentes, que si la cogen llevándose las sobras del aserrío patrio, la ajustician. Es decir, la matan”.

Continúa... <https://formasdedistorsionarelmundo.w...>

Lina says

Didn't enjoy it that much
