

Elif Shafak

L'ho sposato, lettore mio Un uccello migratore The Forty Rules of Love The Flea Palace

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per quale ragione I ho sposato lettore mio una delle frasi pi celebri e citate della letteratura inglese la risposta tutt altro che ovvia risiede nel capolavoro da cui tratta jane eyre 1847 la storia di un orfana che grazie alla sola intelligenza e caparbiets riesce a convolare a nozze con il nobile signor rochester per affermare il suo successo e il cambiamento della propria condizione sociale invece di dichiarare mi ha sposata lettore mio com era da aspettarsi nella maschilista societ vittoriana jane dice I ho sposato lettore mio una sfumatura nella forma verbale che ha lo scopo di rimarcare la coscienza femminile della protagonista e quella dell'autrice charlotte bront e che si erge a manifesto ispirazione e stimolo per tutte le scrittrici a venire quando tracy chevalier ha chiesto alle migliori autrici in lingua inglese di raccontare una storia ispirata a quella celebre battuta non I ha fatto solo per festeggiare i duecento anni della nascita di charlotte bront ma anche per ridare significato a quelle parole per renderle di nuovo vive e attuali nella societ odierna in alcuni racconti sono le nozze stesse a essere drammatiche a causa di una dolorosa scheggia di vetro in coppia mista di linda grant o di un mutamento improvviso in il matrimonio di mia madre di tessa hadley o di un rapporto clandestino durante una cerimonia in zambia in uomini doppi di namwali serpell o di un incontro gotico nel fango della brughiera in tenersi per mano di joanna briscoe dice chevalier in altri come la prima volta che vidi il tuo viso di emma donoghue la frase di jane eyre diventa il trampolino di lancio per viaggiare indietro nel tempo fino alla germania di fine ottocento dove miss hall e mary benson la moglie dell'arcivescovo di canterbury si macchiano del peccato di un amore saffico se in lo scambio audrey niffenegger colloca jane nel mondo contemporaneo in un paese dilaniato dalla guerra la penna originale ed eccentrica di helen dunmore si diverte a raccontare jane eyre dal punto di vista della governante ingelosita mentre tracy chevalier con la maestria che I ha resa una delle scrittrici pi lette e amate d italia in grado di donare il soffio della vita al romanzo storico independent dipinge la relazione sentimentale di una coppia male assortita come margherite e gladioli come pizzo e cuoio il risultato una collezione di ventuno storie d amore diversissime per sensibilit scrittura e intenzioni che ruotano attorno a una medesima eroina dai mille volti una donna determinata e coraggiosa che combatte per vincere i pregiudizi e gli ostacoli della societ e che non ha paura di affermare la propria identit dicendo a testa alta con un sorriso affaticato ma fiero io I ho sposato lettore mio ventuno storie per celebrare charlotte bront e jane eyre racconti di

tracy chevalier tessa hadley sarah hall helen dunmore kirsty gunn joanna briscoe jane gardam emma donoghue susan hill francine prose elif shafak evie wyld patricia park salley vickers nadifa mohamed esther freud linda grant lionel shriver audrey niffenegger namwali serpell elizabeth mccracken

per festeggiare i 200 anni della nascita di charlotte bront tracy chevalier ha chiesto alle migliori autrici in lingua inglese di scrivere una storia ispirata alla celebre battuta di jane eyre I ho sposato lettore mio questo racconto fa parte della raccolta dedicata a charlotte bront I ho sposato lettore mio a cura di tracy chevalier

in this lyrical exuberant tale acclaimed turkish author elif shafak author of the island of missing trees a reese s book club pick incarnates rumi s timeless message of love ella rubenstein is forty years old and unhappily married when she takes a job as a reader for a literary agent her first assignment is to read and report on sweet blasphemy a novel written by a man named aziz zahara ella is mesmerized by zahara s tale of shams of tabriz s search for rumi and the dervish s role in transforming the successful but unhappy cleric into a committed mystic passionate poet and advocate of love she is also taken with shams s lessons or rules that offer insight into an ancient philosophy based on the unity of all people and religions and the presence of love in each and every one of us as she reads on she realizes that rumi s story mir rors her own and that zahara like shams has come to set her free the forty rules of love unfolds two tantalizing parallel narratives one contemporary and the other set in the thirteenth century when rumi encountered his spiritual mentor shams the whirling dervish that together explore the enduring power of rumi s work

the setting is a stately residence in istanbul built by russian noble emigre pavel antipov for his wife agripina at the end of the tsarist reign now sadly dilapidated flea infested and home to ten families shafak uses the narrative structure of a thousand and one nights to construct a story within a story narrative inhabitants include ethel a lapsed jew in search of true love and the sad and beautiful blue mistress whose personal secret provides the novel with an unforgettable denouement add to this a strange intensifying stench whose cause is revealed at the end of the book we have a metaphoric conduit for the cultural and spiritual decay in the heart of istanbul

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