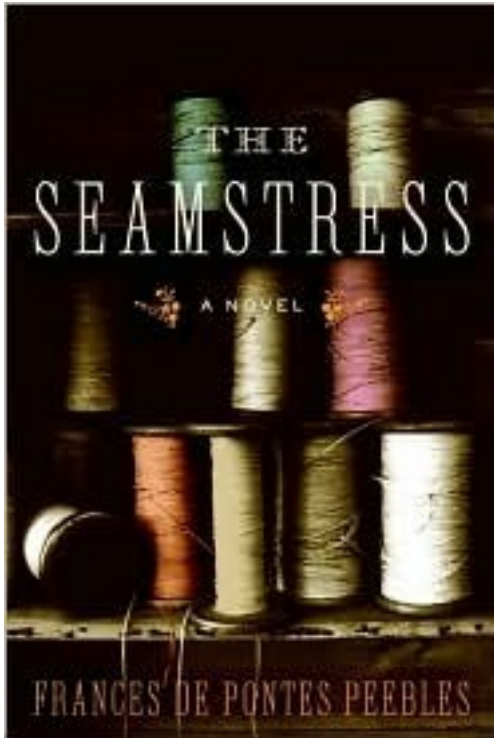

Frances de Pontes Peebles

The Seamstress



Title: The Seamstress

Author: Frances de Pontes Peebles

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Description

As seamstresses, the young sisters Emília and Luzia dos Santos know how to cut, mend, and conceal—useful skills in the lawless backcountry of Brazil, where ruthless land barons feud with bands of outlaw cangaceiros, trapping innocent residents in the crossfire. Emília, a naive romantic, dreams of falling in love with a gentleman and escaping to a big city. Quick-tempered Luzia also longs for escape, finding it in her craft and secret prayers to the saints she believes once saved her life. But when Luzia is abducted by cangaceiros led by the infamous Hawk and Emília stumbles into a marriage with the son of a wealthy and politically powerful doctor, the sisters' quiet lives diverge in ways they never would have imagined.

Insightful reviews

Katherine: Well-written if overly long, tending toward a slight bloat of historical fact. Though the story is interesting even compelling, it's also dark, tragic, and contains a lot of gruesome, brutal violence.

The writing and the compelling story-telling warrant more than one star but in all honesty I truly did not like this book. Not recommended unless you have a particular interest in bleak Brazilian history and a highly-developed acceptance for overt brutality in the books you read.

I'm a little surprised at all the gushing reviews and wonder if we're losing our collective sensitivity and developing a numbness toward and an appetite for ever-increasing violence. It's disturbing to see the word *lovely* used as a descriptive for this book, but then everyone's entitled to their opinion.

Tina: This book started out great and really had me intrigued. But it started dragging on and on about halfway through. I really got sick of all the gory details of the cangaceiros' killings. The politics were a bit uninteresting for me. Maybe if I knew more about Brazil. I usually love historical novels but this was not a winner for me. I don't feel as though I gained much from having read it. You could tell it was researched well. :) If nothing else I learned a little bit about Brazil during the depression-era.

Cosima: Frances de Pontes Peebles created a rich and lively atmosphere in "The Seamstress". This tale has a great sense of place and while reading it I felt like I really was carried away to a long past period in Brazil. I could see, feel, and smell everything as if it were right in front of me. The subject of cangaceiros was fascinating as I'd never heard of them before. Apparently "The Seamstress" is one of many adaptations of the story of the real-life cangaceiros Lampiao and Maria Bonita. The contrasting realities of the two sisters are brilliantly told. I cried at the end, of course. I hope to see more from this author.

Velocity6: totally terrible

Alice: This used to be remarkable fiction that made me think it was once real. The author, de Pontes Peebles, rather made me think like I used to be in Brazil (and occasionally conversing

Portuguese!). She wasn't flowery in her descriptions, simply easy and uncomplicated and that I was once capable of photo the brush, the mountains, and Recife. At first I used to be a bit by way of her use of such a lot of Portuguese words. yet I used to be capable of skim over these and nonetheless get an idea of what they referred to. a number of the extra universal phrases she used during the book, I went to Google translate and attempted taking a look them up. now not all have been in there, yet with the aid of the internet, I used to be capable of determine them out. It additionally support to get a few pronunciations of these words, which I loved listening to in a local (?) tongue. I beloved how she wove historic occasions into her story, making it believe much more real. I've got learn numerous books fairly lately with tale strains performed in this time period, so it is helping to augment international occasions in the course of that time. The e-book was once long, based on my standards, yet I used to be quick taken in by means of it, and the extra I learn the extra I did not are looking to positioned it down. This is the second booklet in a row I have learn that offers a bit trace of the finishing in its prologue. I'm starting to like that. It makes me see if I will work out a number of the tricks given before everything prior to I am getting to them within the tale line, including to the thrill of interpreting the story. SPOILER ALERT: I used to be stunned with my siding for Luzia and never desirous to have her die within the end. I wished her to change. I didn't wish it to rain in February in order that she may disband the crowd and make a good existence for herself, and that I can not wish the 'bad guy' to win. but if you spot it from the facet of her sister, Emilia, it pulls at the center strings. It additionally made me give some thought to Stockholm Syndrome, and the way Luzia used to be rather pulled into that life, even supposing she felt that deep within it used to be a choice. I don't believe a tender lady could make that sort of choice, and she or he did attempt to escape. I by no means fairly did like Antonio. He can have been charismatic to many, yet he nonetheless took benefit of the draw he had on humans like Luzia and his men. I needed to check him to Robin Hood, yet I by no means may perhaps get rather get there with all of his "justified" murders! I imagine de Pontes did a great task with this book. I might like to see it as a mini-series (something just like the Thornbirds did with Australia). :)

Drayton Bird: I approximately did not learn this. obtained it out of the library, then proposal the canopy advised it would be simply sloppy romance. however it isn't, and I am completely satisfied I learn it. it is the first e-book I have learn (a unhappy admission) concerning the cangaceiros of Brasil. It covers the early a part of the C20th while the geographical region was once nonetheless run through the Colonels - yet landowners who operated a bit like medieval barons. It is certainly romance - yet very much greater than that. The cangaceiros are people heroes who (depending on what you believe) rob the wealthy to feed the bad - or much more likely rob everyone regardless. the 3 major characters are sisters who're separated: one enters a loveless marriage and lives in what passes for prime society in Recife, capital of Pernambuco state. the opposite is carried off through a number one cangaceiro, based, I think, on Lampiao, the main well-known of the outlaws. He appears apparently intellectual. the writer is a descendant of 1 of the best Brazilian households (as some distance as I will gather). I feel she has performed a very good activity - one degree being that I wished to grasp extra approximately Recife and the cangaceiros. visit <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cangaco>. should you any interest in any respect you'll be fascinated. in case you have none, I recommend you lock your self in a room someplace and wait until eventually you die. It is years for the reason that I used to be final in Brasil; we should always have long gone there in the beginning of this yr to sere my former PA and her kinfolk whom we like - however the journey used to be postponed.

This bolstered my decision to make it soon. I imagine whilst a publication makes you must do something, that is solid a degree of its quality.

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