

A Study Of Life Of Maria And Her Dreams For Searching True Love And Sensual Pleasure In The Novel Eleven Minutes

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Abstract:

This novel gives us insight about two kinds of emotions: “one based on true love and other on sensual pleasure”. It is shown with the help of the protagonist “Maria”, she is a prostitute who works in Switzerland. “Maria’s line of work, which requires her to indulge the sometimes-dubious fantasies of wealthy men, has heightened her sense of erotic pleasure while forcing her to keep her heart closed”. At the time she gets an encounter with a young painter, she falls in love with him and develops spiritual affection. With the help of her turbulence and susceptibility, our author focusing on risks and reward of love: “Keeping passion at bay or surrendering blindly to it,” he writes. “Which of these two attitudes is the least destructive?”

Key Words: Eleven Minutes, Maria

Introduction:

This is a story about a girl whose name is Maria. She left her home in Brazil in search of great adventure and love. She shifted to “Geneva, Switzerland”. But this does not prove to be successful for her as she didn’t get what she wanted but unwontedly she has to go into the prostitution to get back to her home. “*During her time in Switzerland, Maria experiences pain, pleasure, and love and must decide the correct path for her life*”.

She has grown up into “*a small town in the interior of Brazil where folklore, superstitions, and traditional roles for women are woven into the culture*”. Even though she was good at studies and always read books but her actual aim was to “fall in love, marry and make family”. She has many encounters with young love but she was not able to get her true love, to which she believed that “she is never destined to get the most important element in her life”.

She dreams of travelling and in this process, grows up to become a beautiful young women, understanding very early in life that love is not meant for her and that dominating a man would make her overcome her weakness for love. So she starts dating, having sex and indulging in all kinds of pleasures but love. She gathers enough money by the time she is 22 and sets off to travel to the city of her dreams that is far away from her parents, friends, work and her boyfriends.

One thing leads to another and she lands herself in Geneva. She struggles hard to get fame, and in this process of doing so runs out of money until one day an Arab offers her 1000 francs to sleep with him. She readily accepts and becomes a prostitute in a high end bar called 'Copacabana'. She thinks to herself that she would stay away from love and focus on earning enough money to go back to Brazil, buy a farm and ask her parents to live with her comfortably.

And then one day, she finds an artist named 'Ralf hart' in a café and things change. She falls in love and allows herself to indulge in pleasures she had long ago forbidden herself. This book is all about love, pain, suffering, sadomasochism, sex, sacred sex, clitoris, yes you read it right, clitoris, G-spot, pleasures in sex, orgasms and dreams and life of Maria.

Due to the fact that she "craves for adventure" makes her different from other girls. She wanted to go on a small vacation and for that she started working in "draper's shop" to collect money. *"Maria goes to Rio de Janeiro, where she is approached by a Swiss entertainment businessman and is coaxed to fly back to Switzerland with the man and work in his nightclub as a samba dancer"*. As she reached there she gets to know the real part of that place and also gets to know that she will be given "less money and restricted lifestyle" which she never imagined.

She gets fired when she was caught dating a man in the club. But it was good at the fact that the man helped her with the money and that money will help her till she gets a job for her living. She has signed for "modeling agency" and discusses about "fashion show" with a man but that results in her sleeping with that man. And this is the beginning of her career as prostitute which gives "good amount of money with less investment".

She started working as a prostitute in “Geneva”. Geneva is a very famous place which helps her in getting many clients which results in lot of money. She will be using that money to return back to her home. Even though she has done sex with many kinds of people, but she has not allowed anyone to touch her soul.

*“Maria is also introduced to the practice of sadomasochism,
which she may have been inclined to pursue had she not met
a painter who falls in love with her and convinces Maria
that she can find love without physical pain”.*

She falls in love with a young painter whom she meets at Paris airport when she was returning back to her home. Even though it is not shown that whether they will marry or not but at least she finds her true love. And for the very first time she falls with soul and body.

Excerpts from the book:

1. “What the eyes don’t see, the heart doesn’t grieve over”.
2. “Life is too short, or too long, to allow myself the luxury of living it so badly”.
3. “I can choose either to be a victim of the world or an adventurer in search of treasure. It’s all a question of how I view my life.”
4. “Human beings can withstand a week without water, two weeks without food, many years of homelessness, but not loneliness. It is the worst of all tortures, the worst of all sufferings.”
5. “No one loses anyone, because no one owns anyone. That is the true experience of freedom: having the most important thing in the world without owning it”

Conclusion:

We can say that she is a selfless lady who has dreams in her eyes. She wanted to be successful for which she can do anything.

“This is shown through her determination and even during her self-destroying profession she longs to achieve her dream she had since she was a little girl even though this is achieved through an adventure which causes her to change from being the innocent young girl she was”.

She has a very caring nature which is shown in her dealings with her clients as she releases their both stresses i.e., physically and emotionally.

“She is also a friendly lady as although Ralf Hart first offends her profession she still continues to talk and resolve the tension which then leads to a friendship and then a relationship”.

She is even a devoting person who has spend all the earned money on her family in order to keep them happy and wanted to buy a farm for them.

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