



"Fantastic!"

—LAURA ESQUIVEL, author of
Like Water for Chocolate
and *The Law of Love*

sirena
selenia

a novel

Mayra Santos-Febres

TRANSLATED BY STEPHEN LYTTLE

Picador USA

Sirena Selena by Mayra Santos-Febres

Mayra Santos-Febres

came across via Martha Divine within the backstreets of San Juan, choosing over garbage, drugged out of his brain and making a song boleros that transfix the listener, a 15 yr Sirena Selena previous hustler is remodeled into Sirena Selena, a diva whose uncanny attractiveness and irresistible voice might be their price tag to reputation and fortune. Auditioning for one of many luxurious lodges within the Dominican Republic, Selena casts her spell over Hugo Graubel, one of many hotel's wealthy investors. Graubel is a robust guy within the Republic, married with children. Selena, decided to flee the poverty and abuse s/he suffered as a child, engages Graubel in Sirena Selena a protracted seduction during this mordant, intensely lyrical tragi-comedy - half masque, Sirena Selena half cabaret - approximately id (class, race, gender) and "the starvation and wish to be different things."

leave out Martha Divine, an previous veteran of the Drag Queen scene in Manhattan and Puerto Rico, has stumbled on her price ticket to glory: a 15-year-old with a voice like an angel, who takes at the artist identify of Sirena Selena. omit Martha takes her younger protege to the neighboring Dominican Republic, in an try and promote the act to 1 of the partiality vacationer resorts there - the place they might not brain that the performer is underage. After seeing Sirena Selena Sirena Selena's audition, one very filthy rich Sirena Selena businessman, Hugo Graubel, is captivated by way of the younger megastar - in her captivating performance, he thinks that he has eventually discovered the person who he can love "as i've got regularly desired to love a woman" (p. 175). jam-packed with desire, Hugo arranges to have Sirena Selena come to his house, to accomplish for his enterprise affiliates at a dinner he'll be throwing later that week. His wife, unhappy together with her husband's persevered disinterest in her, isn't really happy to have a travesti within the house. Hugo does not care what his spouse thinks; whether she makes a decision to divorce him over it, he simply desires to have Sirena Selena for his very own. Interspersed with pass over Martha Divine's memories in regards to the homosexual scene in Puerto Rico and big apple and a tangentially comparable examine the friendship among younger boys, this novel questions the steadiness of gender, sexuality, Sirena Selena and get dressed within the scorching Caribbean international of travestis. The unique Spanish identify of this novel is "Sirena Selena Vestida de Pena" this means that either "Sirena Sirena Selena Selena, wearing pain" or "Sirena Selena, dressed with care." (If I be mindful my formerly-fluent yet long-disused Spanish correctly.) No ask yourself the translator selected to simply shorten the title! This unique identify captures the essence of the ebook and of Sirena's character. After a very tricky childhood, concerning residing at the streets after his grandmother's death, drugs, Sirena Selena and being raped, the younger performer ultimately has the chance to make whatever of her life. After dressing conscientiously for the position (she is a consummate Sirena Selena actress), she wows her audiences together with her soul-filled renditions of her grandmother's boleros. it's the emotion, the discomfort imbued within the songs, that provides her voice the ability to enchant her listeners. possibly it truly is accordingly that Hugo is so interested in this younger travesti. it sort of feels that, his complete life, he has Sirena Selena been hiding the truth that he's gay, whatever that's frowned upon through his kin and Dominican society, in particular for somebody of his social standing. Feeling careworn to

behave and seem straight, he married a girl and had children, yet didn't get pleasure from any of it. He sees his salvation in Sirena: whereas she seems to be the right woman, her male genitalia will let him to actually love her bodily for the 1st time. learn the remaining on my blog: <http://thegloballycurious.blogspot.co...>

Sirena Selena

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