

The American Seduction

A Memoir by Roser Caminals

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Somondoco Press is proud to publish The American Seduction (La seducció americana, Edicions 62, 2009), an innovative hybrid of travel diary, unconventional memoir, and cultural essay that sketches experiences and anecdotes from the author's thirty-eight years in the United States. Addressed to the general public, it offers a fresh vision of America through a new, highly personal lens, zeroing in on details of American everyday life that Americans take for granted. Geographically it covers a wide territory that is roughly divided among the East, the

West, the South, and the Midwest. Some chapters focus on places; others, borrowing from novelistic techniques, on more or less eccentric people, capturing their distinctive voices.

The overall effect is to intrigue, provoke, and amuse.

"[La seducció americana] paints a complex picture with its lights and shadows, full of paradoxes that in the end attract and seduce us."

-La Vanguardia

"To fall in love with a new, freshly seen world read The American Seduction and you'll never forget the thrill of discovery. A great book!"

> -JORDI COCA, AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR OF UNDER THE DUST

Roser Caminals was born in Barcelona and has a Ph.D. in English from the University of Barcelona. A member of the Royal Academy of Letters of Barcelona, she is the author of seven highly praised novels written in her native Catalan as well as a work of non-fiction. Her most popular book, El Carrer dels Tres Llits was published in English as a paperback and e-book under the title The Street of the Three Beds. In 1966 Les herbes secretes (The Secret Herbs) won the Jocs Florals de la Diáspora award. She



has translated the classic Spanish novel, Emilia Pardo Bazán's The House of Ulloa and, in collaboration with Holly Cashman, A Matter of Self-Esteem and Other Stories by the celebrated Catalan author Carme Riera. She and her husband, American writer William Heath, live in Frederick, Maryland.

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Praise from important authors and reviews in major Catalan newspapers

The American Seduction:

"In this unique memoir/travelogue narrating the experiences of a Catalan who comes to live in the United States, Roser Caminals takes us on a deliciously detailed tour of American cities as seen through the eyes of a "cultural mestizo." With intelligence and wit, she infuses her descriptions of locales with their depictions in movies and popular songs, offering us a healthy dose of historical fact and salacious tidbit."

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"Catalan novelist Roser Caminals surprises and delights with what she beautifully designates as The American Seduction, thirty-eight years of U.S. observations that cut two ways: as a European she finds pleasure in the charms of American life and the allurements of its bicoastal cities as well as its spectacular natural beauty, myth-making movies, and tourist attractions particularly of the West. At the same time she sharply perceives across the land from its Ohio suburbs to its Deep South restaurants to its Florida retirement parks and its Las Vegas casinos a fearful moral blindness protected by a shaky belief in America's youthful innocence and in happiness as the eleventh commandment, offering in sum a stringent and bracing vision of the American Dream in its current struggle to fulfill its own aspirations."

—Frank Bergon, author of Two-Buck Chuck & The Mariboro Man

"Caminals knows very well what she wants to do and knows how to do it very well."

> —Presencia Els aliats de la nit (The Allies of Night)

"In this new story, Caminals once again fascinates the reader by recreating in great detail an atmosphere that she knows intimately.... extraordinarily vivid."

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