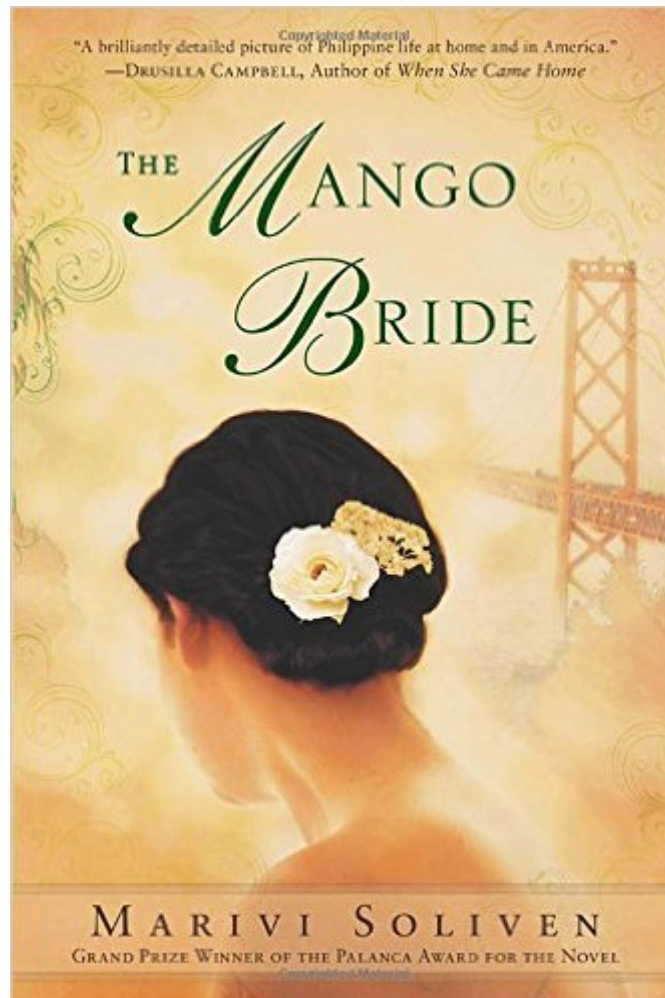


The book was found

The Mango Bride



Synopsis

Two women, two cultures, and the fight to find a new life in America, despite the secrets of the past. Banished by her wealthy Filipino family in Manila, Amparo Guerrero travels to Oakland, California, to forge a new life. Although her mother labels her life in exile a diminished one, Amparo believes her struggles are a small price to pay for freedom. Like Amparo, Beverly Obejas "an impoverished Filipina waitress" forsakes Manila and comes to Oakland as a mail-order bride in search of a better life. Yet even in the land of plenty, Beverly fails to find the happiness and prosperity she envisioned. As Amparo works to build the immigrant's dream, she becomes entangled in the chaos of Beverly's immigrant nightmare. Their unexpected collision forces them both to make terrible choices and confront a life-changing secret, but through it all they hold fast to family, in all its enduring and surprising transformations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

They say that a book leaves you exhausted, because through it, you have lived several lives. That is how I felt when I finished *The Mango Bride*. The elements of the plot were so well-woven that when the end came, it came in a tidal wave that left me drenched and heavy. *The Mango Bride* is centered around the lives of two protagonists who live in Manila, Philippines: Amparo and Beverly. Amparo comes from the wealthy and well-reputed Duarte-Guerrero family but was banished to the United States after a scandal. Beverly Obejas, on the other hand, lives in poverty and fantasizes of a more glamorous life that she sees in movies. Amparo and Beverly are intriguing characters, and some elements of their lives do feel like they were borrowed from soap operas - an influence that Soliven

nods to in the interview at the back of the book. Sometimes I had trouble believing how naive Amparo and Beverly could be when it came to romance, but hey, this is a cynical American talking here. ;) After her mother's death, Beverly clings on to notions of romance and material prosperity, eventually coming to believe coming to the United States as a mail order bride would help her attain those dreams. As a pretty-faced nobody in the Philippines, Beverly constantly compares her life to those of people around her. Her constant envy of others and self-delusional mindset irritated me throughout the novel, but I suppose that's the sort of "antagonistic personality" that Marivi Soliven likes to write. I was torn between understanding Beverly's situation and disliking her for her self-destructive (and naive) mindset. It made the story all the more compelling because I wanted to find out what would happen to Beverly and Amparo.

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