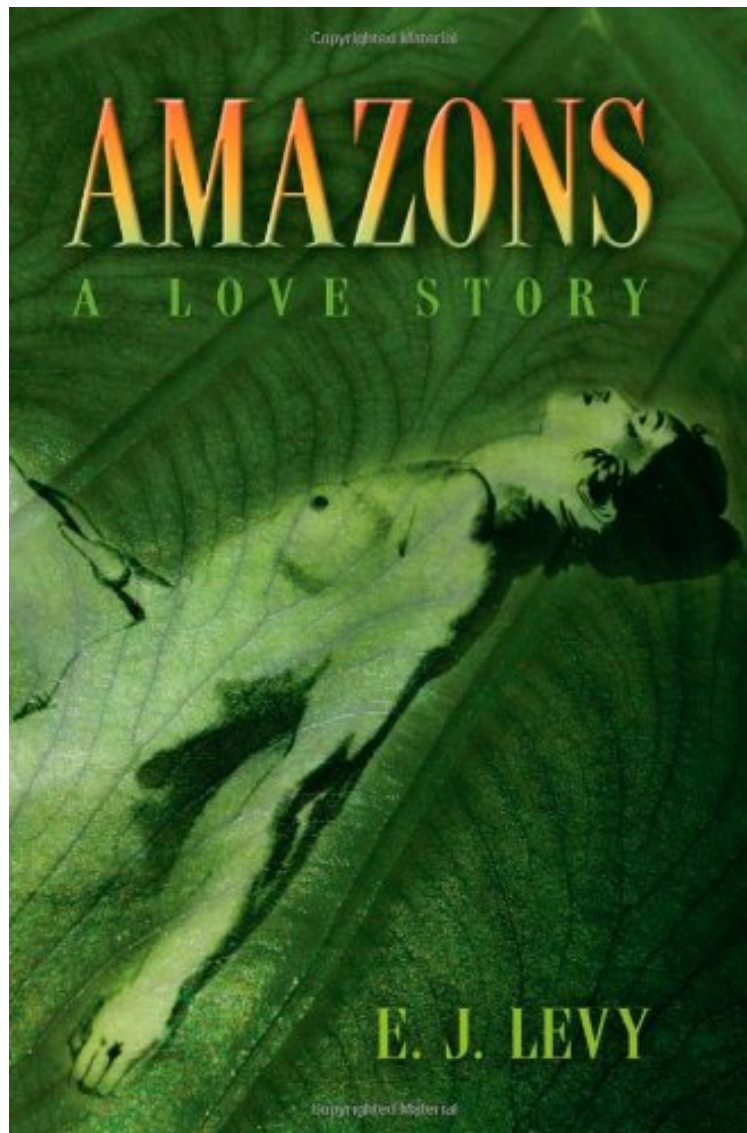


(Download ebook) Amazons: A Love Story

Amazons: A Love Story

Ellen Levy

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Ellen Levy : Amazons: A Love Story before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Amazons: A Love Story:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I was, despite my clumsiness, fierce, kin to divinity, child of a god, a warrior.By Gabriel ValjanNote: on , Love, In Theory is found searching for E.J. Levy, whereas s: A Love Story is listed under Ellen Levy.Impressed with her Love, In Theory: Ten Stories, winner of the Flannery OConnor Award for Short Fiction, I ordered s as a birthday gift to myself and I was not disappointed. Memoir is a tricky genre. Think

unreliable narrator and all the inherent traps with memory. This is not the case here; in fact, the author is quite candid about all her shortcomings, her mistakes on reflection, and does both with honesty and humor. I did not find her scrutiny self-absorbed at all. For someone who claimed she could count on one hand all the books I'd read, excluding those assigned for classes, Levy has an enviable gift for language. I'd like to see her reading list because there are seasoned writers who don't write this well. I'd like to see more of her writing. Ordinary, plain, and intelligent is how Levy viewed herself. She was raised to venerate books and, I suspect, live the linear life of doing the right things, reading the right books, and having the right opinion on just about everything important to Rotarians. She had never thought of herself as a writer, as a creative person. Art was something other people did. She wasn't that girl. She lists lots of girls she wasn't. That would all change fast. She calls herself a Cartographer of Loss, a Prufrock in Paradise. She lit out for Brazil on a Yale fellowship at 21 to study the rainforest. Nave, her Portuguese sketchy, she arrives with the wrong clothes and without much of a plan. She counts her money and calories consumed. She has affairs. She helps the friend who can't be saved. She gets sick; she is robbed; and she is raped. In two of the most unsettling paragraphs I have ever read, her *Is it was it rape?* left me speechless and shaken. EJ comes into her own in a different culture and the reader is witness to all of it. The journey is revealed through the writing. In what could only be subliminal and symbolic, she would later shed her Economics and Latin American Studies major like old skin for history and write her thesis on apocalyptic narratives. Lush and lyrical writing, of which there are numerous instances in *s*, is not mere white noise or window dressing, as it is with some writers. Levy's intellect is analytical, though not cold; her expression, poetic. The beauty (and power) behind her writing is such that as you flow with the images, get swept up in them, you'll stop and reread them, and then the metaphorical truck runs you over because few writers write this well about vulnerability and what it is to be human. Her epiphanies, great and small, whether on the fragility of the rainforest, beauty, competition between women, desire, parents, and romantic relationships lead her to tenuous self-acceptance. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent-- a lyrical smart affecting memoir. By Patrice EJ Levy is a spectacular writer and this astonishing book moves me deeply, both for the human story of a young woman with a grand and honorable ambition who learns the hard way how to navigate treacherous territory, and for the deeply affecting story of the forest. The language and storytelling are so original, so good it makes me happy just to be in the presence of a writer this talented, but equally compelling is the understated but lucidly articulated plea for us all to reconsider our relationship to the natural world. There are moments of levity, where I laughed out loud, and moments of acute awareness of our own vulnerability as humans, when I wanted to weep. This book is a work of art, highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's all about the quality of the writing, which is magnificent. By Lapidary Blue I have had this book for several years and just got around to starting it yesterday. I have no idea where it's headed or what the plot is, but I am on for the ride. The first 15 pages are as good as it gets, this is magnificent writing. I can't wait to wallow in it. ***** I wallowed. When I first posted above I awarded five stars. Don't get me wrong, I like this book and love the writing, but it does not deserve five stars, it's just not as outstanding as the other books I've awarded five stars to.

When E.J. Levy arrived in northern Brazil on a fellowship from Yale at the age of 21, she was hoping to help save the Amazon rain forest; she didn't realize she would soon have to save herself. *Amazons: A Love Story* recounts an idealistic young woman's coming of age against the backdrop of the magnificent rain forest and exotic city of Salvador. This elegant and sharp-eyed memoir explores the interaction of the many forces fueling deforestation--examining the ecological, economic, social, and spiritual costs of ill-conceived development--and those that shape young women's growing up. Sent to Salvador (often called the "soul of Brazil" for its rich Afro-Brazilian culture), a city far from the rain forest, Levy befriends two young Brazilians--Nel, a brilliant economics student who is estranged from her family for mysterious reasons, and Isa, a gorgeous gold digger. When the university closes due to a strike, none of them can guess what will come of their ambitions. Levy's course of study changes: she takes up capoeira, enters cooking school (making foods praised in Brazilian literature as almost magical elixirs), gains fluency in Portuguese and the ways of street life, and learns other, more painful lessons--she is raped, and her best friend becomes a prostitute. When Levy finally reaches the Amazon, her courage--and her safety--are further tested: on a barefoot hike through the jungle one night to collect tadpoles, she encounters fist-sized spiders, swimming snakes, and crocodiles. When allergies to the antimalarial drugs meant to protect her prove life-threatening, she discovers that sometimes the greatest threat we face is ourselves. Eventually, her work as a "cartographer of loss," charting deforestation, leads her to realize that our relationships to nature and to our bodies are linked, that we must transcend the logic of commodification if we are to save both wilderness and ourselves. The Amazon is a perennially fascinating subject, alluring and frightening, a site of cultural projection and commercial ambition, of fantasies and violence. *Amazons* offers an intimate look at urgent global issues that affect us all, including the too-often abstract question of rain forest loss. Levy illuminates the burgeoning sex-tourism trade in Brazil, renewed environmental threats, global warming, and the consequences of putting a price on nature. Accounts of the region have most often been by and about men; *Amazons* offers a fresh approach, interweaving an intimate feminist narrative with an urgent ecological one. In the tradition of Terry Tempest Williams, this timely, compelling, and eloquent memoir will appeal to those interested

in literary nonfiction, travel writing, and women's and environmental issues.

"One of the best new nonfiction writers in the country." --Bill Roorbach, author of *Temple Stream: A Rural Odyssey*"Levy is a genuine talent, a unique and powerful voice, with a gift for the sort of close and subtle observation of the world and its people that characterizes great literature." -- Lee Martin, author of *The Bright Forever* and *Break the Skin* "s is a book to admire not least for its remarkable, betimes terrifying insight into the crooked creature we are-- a book rendered with the passion and gifts of a poet." --Lee K. Abbott, author of *All Things, All at Once: New and Selected Stories*"...Levy's intelligent probing and artful sentence-making transform this work from one woman's story into a relentless examination of more universal losses--both personal and environmental--and of the elusive hope that saving imperiled places might also constitute saving ourselves." --Barbara Hurd, author of *Stirring the Mud*"...a highly unusual, poignant coming-of-age saga by a half-Jewish writer nearly off the scale in candor and braininess...[Levy is] a winner as a thinker and a wordsmith." --*JewishJournal.com*About the AuthorE. J. Levy is the editor of *Tasting Life Twice: Literary Lesbian Fiction by New American Writers*, winner of the Lambda Literary Award. Her essays and fiction have won many awards, including a Pushcart Prize and a scholarship to the BreadLoaf Writers' Conference, and have appeared in *Best American Essays*, *The New York Times*, and the *Paris Review*, among other publications. She lives with her partner in Washington, DC, and is an Assistant Professor at Colorado State University.