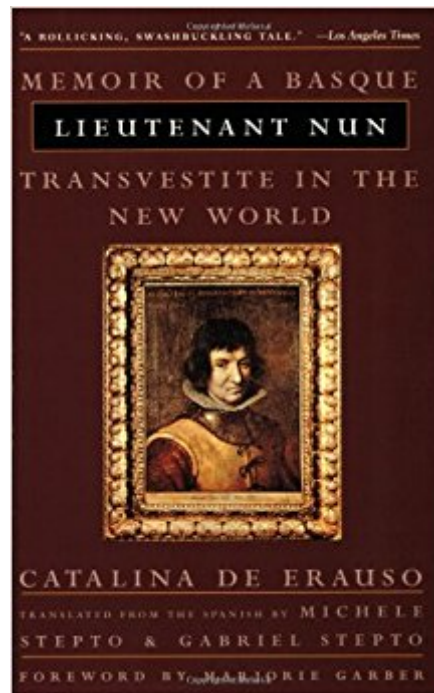




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Lieutenant Nun: Memoir Of A Basque Transvestite In The New World



Synopsis

Named a New York Times Book Review Notable Book of 1996 One of the earliest known autobiographies by a woman, this is the extraordinary tale of Catalina de Erauso, who in 1599 escaped from a Basque convent dressed as a man and went on to live one of the most wildly fantastic lives of any woman in history. A soldier in the Spanish army, she traveled to Peru and Chile, became a gambler, and even mistakenly killed her own brother in a duel. During her lifetime she emerged as the adored folkloric hero of the Spanish-speaking world. This delightful translation of Catalina's own work introduces a new audience to her audacious escapades.

Book Information

Paperback: 128 pages

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 28 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Marjorie Garber (*Vested Interests: Cross-Dressing and Cultural Anxiety*), provides a lively introduction to this picaresque autobiography of a 17th-century nun turned cross-dressing soldier. De Erauso's story itself is a swashbuckler's catalogue of sword fights, daring escapes, damsels in distress, and witty repartee. Even if only half of what de Erauso claims about herself is true, it's a life well worth remembering and an utterly wonderful read.

When she reached the age of 15 in 1600, Catalina, from a wealthy Basque family, escaped from the convent where she had been placed as a child. Passing as a male, she served as a page in various households until 1603, when she set sail for South America. She remained there for 21 years, fighting as a man in Spain's conquest of Peru and Chile. Engaging in frequent swordplay and gunfights, she killed at least a dozen men, including (inadvertently) one of her brothers. Finally she

confessed her true identity to a bishop and returned to Europe as a celebrity, where she received a pension from the king and, from Pope Urban VIII, the right to wear men's clothes. Her story, long on action and almost devoid of introspection, is not for readers looking for scandal or a confession of sexual adventures. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

My interest in GLBT history lead me to this book which is a memoir of the first Spanish transvestite in New Spain. Its short but its a good story I must admit. Its very interesting how when Catalina demonstrates the most aggressive traits of a man is when she gets in trouble and how she constantly runs to the church when she is in trouble even though she escaped from one.

I was attracted to the title because I am Basque. After reading it, I had questions like "How did she manage to remain undetected for so long" ? I was fortunate to attend a lecture/discussion on this book with a college professor who visited Boise State University for a workshop. Made it more enjoyable and either answered questions or provided reasonable possibilities.

Catalina de Erauso is an unusual figure in world history : a runaway nun who successfully concealed her gender and navigated the business and military structures of her time. She's a swashbuckler and an eye level view of Spanish society in Peru in the 1600s. Historians believe that, mostly likely, much of this book was actually written by this remarkable person. I'd recommend it as an enjoyable and quick read offering a first hand view of the past.

The book explores many themes surrounding the "otherness" of the new world as well as the fluidity, or lack there of, gender identity.

So boring.

Quick, easy read. Large text, very short sections. Interesting take on the conquest and the new world.

Entertaining book. The subject matter was interesting and generally entertaining. Enjoyable book.

First person from the 17th century. The world has always been crazy. This will leave you with a new

perspective of the Spanish conquest of America.

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