



The Duel for Consuelo

Claudia H. Long

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History, love, and faith combine in a gripping novel set in early 1700's Mexico. In this second passionate and thrilling story of the Castillo family, the daughter of a secret Jew is caught between love and the burdens of a despised and threatened religion. The Enlightenment is making slow in-roads, but Consuelo's world is still under the dark cloud of the Inquisition. Forced to choose between protecting her ailing mother and the love of dashing Juan Carlos Castillo, Consuelo's personal dilemma reflects the conflicts of history as they unfold in 1711 Mexico. A rich, romantic story illuminating the timeless complexities of family, faith, and love.

The Duel for Consuelo Details

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From Reader Review The Duel for Consuelo for online ebook

Gabrielle Mathieu says

It's the Age of Reason, but Consuelo, marooned in a far corner of the Spanish empire, is not reaping the benefits of Voltaire and Descartes. Consuelo, who lives in Mexico, is the only child of the town's major and a mother who still secretly practices the Jewish faith. A young woman of sixteen, she's a dutiful daughter who nevertheless, feels the passions of her developing body. A series of assumptions and miscommunications result in her estrangement from her first love, a childhood friend and the son of a rich landowner. To add to her troubles, her mother is exhibiting signs of dementia, and her father, the mayor, is being blackmailed by some unsavory men who may or may not be priests.

When Consuelo is sent away to study herbs at a convent, located adjacent to a nobleman's palatial residence, she attracts the attention of a handsome, charming traveler from Spain. But does he have her best interests at heart? And why was she sent away in the first place? Consuelo's struggles to maintain some virtue, hide her mother's secret faith, and untangle her father's desperate attempts to protect the family, draw the reader in.

Diane says

This book wasn't a complete waste of time but close to it. It's the story of an 18th century Mexican girl of Spanish heritage living in Mexico although for all intents and purposes the book could have been set in Spain there is so little Mexican content or atmosphere. The plot revolves around the fact that her mother has a modicum of Jewish ancestry which makes the entire family targets of the Inquisition, still in operation by unscrupulous clerics far removed from Spain where they have discontinued the practice of torturing Jews for the time being. Consuelo also can't make up her mind between two suitors with predictable results. The most disturbing thing about the book is that it appears to have been edited at random with pieces removed in the middle of chapters with disjointing effect. Don't waste your time on this one.

Sandra O'Briant says

Many historical fiction novels are well-researched but it takes a good writer to soften the facts with images that are so vivid it's like watching a movie. Claudia Long's latest novel, *The Duel for Consuelo*, does exactly that. Consuelo is a real woman who makes mistakes and takes risks, but her loyalty to her family is paramount, as is her love for her childhood pal, Juan Carlos. The story is fast-paced and a satisfying read to the end.

Kay Ellington says

A must-read for historical fiction connoisseurs, September 13, 2014

The Duel for Consuelo sizzles with rich, lush language that depicts an era that we only know from the history books --1700's Mexico. Details with historical accuracy bring the story of Consuelo to life, as this savvy and sensual young woman must deal with the realities of The Inquisition and society's limitations on women--even in New Spain. But her beauty--inside and out, compassion and love for family, and romantic fervor for life and her suitors prevail.

Consuelo's father, mayor of Tulancingo has overextended himself financially. Her mother has dementia, and Consuelo is her caregiver. Her father takes the family to a wedding at the estate of a wealthy family, the Castillos, in hopes of attaining a loan. Consuelo is largely interested in attaining the attentions of young and handsome Juan Carlos Castillo. Indeed they share a night of passion. Her father receives the loan in exchange for Consuelo studying apothecary at the Castle of the Carques of Condera with the nuns. While at the Castle she is drawn to one Leandro de Almidon.

Juan Carlos comes to the castle, and the two men vie for Consuelo. A duel occurs, thus the title, A Duel for Consuelo.

The tension, suspense, and arc of the story will hook you and have you feverishly turning the pages toward its powerful ending.

Gabrielle Mathieu says

It's the Age of Reason, but Consuelo, marooned in a far corner of the Spanish empire, is not reaping the benefits of Voltaire and Descartes. Consuelo, who lives in Mexico, is the only child of the town's mayor and a mother who still secretly practices the Jewish faith. A young woman of sixteen, she's a dutiful daughter who nevertheless, feels the passion of her developing body. A series of assumptions and miscommunications result in her estrangement from her first love, a childhood friend and the son of a rich landowner. To add to her troubles, her mother is exhibiting signs of dementia, and her father, the mayor, is being blackmailed by some unsavory men who may or may not be priests.

When Consuelo is sent away to study herbs at a convent, located adjacent to a nobleman's palatial residence, she attracts the attention of a handsome, charming traveler from Spain. But does he have her best interests at heart? And why was she sent away in the first place? Consuelo's struggles to maintain some virtue, hide her mother's secret faith, and untangle her father's desperate attempts to protect the family, draw the reader in.

Lori says

I was lucky to receive an advanced reader copy (ARC) of Claudia Long's new novel, *Duel for Consuelo*. It is a fast-paced historical novel set in 1700 Mexico. It is not only a love story but one of the secret Conversos as well as of daughter-mother love. Since my mother was one of the biggest fans of the first novel in this series, *Josefina's Sin*, I cannot wait for her to receive a physical copy of *Duel for Consuelo*.

Arleen Williams says

Intriguing!

I enjoy novels that not only pull me in from page one and hold steady throughout, but that also lead me to see the world a bit differently. DUEL FOR CONSUELO does just that.

Author, Claudia H. Long weaves an intriguing and well-researched story of the Inquisition in early 1700s Mexico with a well-crafted story and convincing characters. Consuelo is a strong young woman torn between responsibility for her ailing mother, loyalty to her faith, and the allure of love. She must find a balance or perish. With this strong female protagonist and plenty of adventure and romance, the story hooked me with unexpected force. This is my first Claudia H. Long novel and I look forward to another.

Kristin says

I really wanted to like this book more, especially because the author visited our book club. I also had high hopes because I enjoy historical fiction. While the author took on some lesser known history, I found the writing to be simplistic and predictable, more akin to a romance novel. I would recommend this to a young adult as long as they don't take issues with some of the sexier scenes.

Kathleen Kelly says

The Duel for Consuelo takes place in Mexico, referred to as New Spain, in the 1700's. The Spanish Inquisition had long reaching talons and that is what this book is primarily about, the persecution of Judaism and the people who practiced it. Consuelo is the daughter of Isidro Argenta, Alcade or mayor of Tulancingo who's task it is to take care and protect her mother, Leila. Leila is in the stages of dementia but is also a Jewess who has to practice her faith in secret as Spain persecutes anyone not of the Catholic faith. Consuelo and her father are concerned for Leila's safety.

Consuelo attends the wedding of Joaquin Castillo, a very rich family, mainly so she can see the younger brother Juan Carlos. Of course her father would love to see an advantageous marriage in the Castillo family. Isidro has overextended himself with money lenders and a marriage into this family would help him tremendously. Consuelo is conflicted, duty to her parents or her love for Juan Carlos, which does she choose? She is sent to the Castle of the Carques of Condera to study apothecary with the nuns. While there she not only studies what she loves, but comes under the spell of Leandro de Almidon, in my opinion, a man who is way too arrogant and self serving for his own good. Juan Carlos comes to the castle and Consuelo is conflicted, who does she love? A duel insues, thus the title, A Duel for Consuelo.

I had not read much in the way of historical fiction that takes place in Mexico and was surprised that the Inquisition and the cruelty of Spain against the Jewish faith was an issue at the time and was not abolished until 1820's. This is a story that is well researched, with political machinations and religious beliefs being the main part of the story, along with duty, honor and love. This is a relatively short book and quite easy to read. I did enjoy it a lot and highly recommend it.

Billie Morton says

The Duel for Consuelo

In this age of Death by Twitter there is something yearningly romantic about two men duelling over a woman. Not that we'd want to see them dead. Maybe a small nick with a sword that could be immediately doused with peroxide would suffice. Followed by a tattoo.

In her compelling novel Claudia H. Long shifts the scene of most recent historical fiction from European courts and palaces to the far grittier and more exotic world of New Spain. The setting is Mexico. The year is 1711. The heroine, Consuelo Costa Argenta, is far from the docile, obedient daughter that her mayoral father and arriviste class demands. Beautiful, smart and in love with a rich and powerful landowner's son Consuelo is headed for a confrontation with some of the state's most dangerous and terrifying forces. And two men are prepared to die for her.

“You have besmirched my name. Bastard.”
‘You are the one fouling my name, cuckold.’
...Consuelo closed her eyes. They were both fools.”

This is exciting storytelling with a surprisingly modern protagonist leading us through a vibrantly depicted world that I was delighted to be granted entrance to.

Patricia Mann says

This gripping tale of romance, religious persecution and family loyalty, set in 1711 Mexico, completely captivated me. I escaped into Consuelo's world with its dangers and delights as often as I could and found it difficult to come back to the present. Long's descriptions of the settings and characters are exquisite. The story is fast paced, with many unexpected twists and turns.

I loved following Consuelo, as she struggled to find her way amidst the restrictions placed on women of her time. I applauded her strength and passion, which were not dampened even by the most terrifying circumstances. The romantic moments were tasteful and deliciously sensual at the same time.

The historical lessons about the time period moved and educated me. I cannot imagine having to fear for your life simply because of practicing your faith. This still happens today in our world, of course, so Long's underlying messages about our right to religious freedom are timeless and powerful.

If you enjoy historical romance, you'll love The Duel for Consuelo. Even if that's not your usual genre, I recommend that you check it out because it's so beautifully written with rich, complex characters, beautiful relationships, and a compelling story that won't let you down!

Wesley says

Consuelo tries to be a dutiful daughter but her family makes it hard. Her dad is kind of a blowhard, always

monopolizing important people and talking their ear off, and then her mother is slowly slipping into (what I assume is something like) dementia. While she slips in and out of lucidity Consuelo cares for her. The problem is that Consuelo's mom is a Jew. She doesn't practice in the open because the Inquisition is a strong force even in Mexico, and that would mean death for her and possibly the whole family. Sometimes she mutters about candles and prayers which puts Consuelo and her father on edge sometimes. When an invitation comes for a wedding of a local noble family there are old feelings stirred up and kind of sets the wheels in motion for most of the action in the book.

This story has all the universal themes that are so popular for a reason: love, misunderstandings that lead to a huge feud, loyalty to family, loyalty to oneself, and of course really bad guys to root against. This story isn't exactly reinventing the wheel, though I had never thought about the Inquisition makes it's way all the way over to the new world.

At first I had trouble with the super short chapters, especially the first few. It's like you barely knew these people and their story and then you get bounced around kind of quickly between them. It got easier the farther along in the book I went, maybe it just took some getting used to!

Lilian Roberts says

I purchased a copy of this book "The Duel for Consuelo" by Claudia Long in exchange for a fair and unbiased review. I have never read anything by this author and I must say I am really impressed. I do like historical novels and this one was one that exceeded my expectations. The time is the 18th century in Mexico and from the very few pages I was hooked.

The author does a fascinating job in presenting a plot full of action, suspense, loyalty, and sensual romance. The story takes you into the horrid and tumultuous times of the Spanish Inquisition. She has a wonderful writing style that captures the reader and keeps you glued to those pages from cover to cover.

I love the way she portraits Consuelo. Even during the times that women were not free to do and be who they wanted to be, Consuelo is strong, passionate and manages to take risks to be the woman she wanted to be under some pretty freighting situations. This is a compelling story that left me eager and hungry for more. The author blends the historic times with family loyalty, love, religious persecution and conflict all around. I was dumbfounded with the author's ability to provide such a great story.

Claudia Long presents many characters that are absolutely superb, likable and very believable. She delivers a gripping tale that will take you on a wild ride filled with suspense and unforeseen twists and turns.

I would recommend this book to any person that loves historical romance, suspense, thrill, and beautiful relationships that will keep you enthralled.

This was an awesome book by a very talented author with a fabulous rich imagination. I can tell that she did extensive research to provide details of those horrifying times. The book is a great read.

Meg - A Bookish Affair says

"The Duel for Consuelo" is a historical fiction novel set in 1700s New Spain, now more commonly known as Mexico. I really love reading historical fiction set in Latin America and I don't find enough of it! The book is set in a time and a place I haven't read very much about. I love when historical fiction can teach you something new! Consuelo's lives with her family in New Spain. This book is both a love story and a story of family. There is also a heavy religious influence in this book since they acquisition is also taking place in new Spain. This is a fascinating book with very memorable characters.

I have read a lot of historical fiction set during the Inquisition; however, most of day historical fiction has been set in Spain. I really liked that this book looked at New Spain. It was interesting to see how the Inquisition affected those people of New Spain both similarly and differently than those people of Spain. Consuelo's family is hiding a major secret. Although the Inquisition seeks to punish those that are practicing Judaism, Consuelo's mother still practices in secret. Consuelo knows that her mother practices and is forced to keep her secret even though it means that she could possibly get in trouble by her self. I really liked the family aspect of this book and loved the relationship between Consuelo and her mother, Leila.

The writing of the book was good. The narrative is told from several different perspectives including that of Consuelo and Leila. I really liked having the different narratives in the book because it allows you to see how various members of society felt about what was going on with regard to the Inquisition. Each character truly had their own voice! Overall, I thought this was a very interesting historical fiction look at an event that changed the course of history.

Denise Steele says

'The Duel for Consuelo' is set in a time and place that I was completely unfamiliar with- New Spain , or Mexico, in the 1700s.

By the end of the book, I was completely immersed in this rich and compelling story of a people forced to hide their ancient Jewish faith and beliefs as the Inquisition searched deeply and cruelly for 'hidden Jews' who had converted to Christianity literally at the point of a sword.

Consuelo is torn between two worlds, two faiths, two suitors, between tradition and Enlightenment , and between family loyalty and her heart.

When her elderly mother, in the throes of dementia, lets slip a dangerous secret, the stakes are raised even higher....
