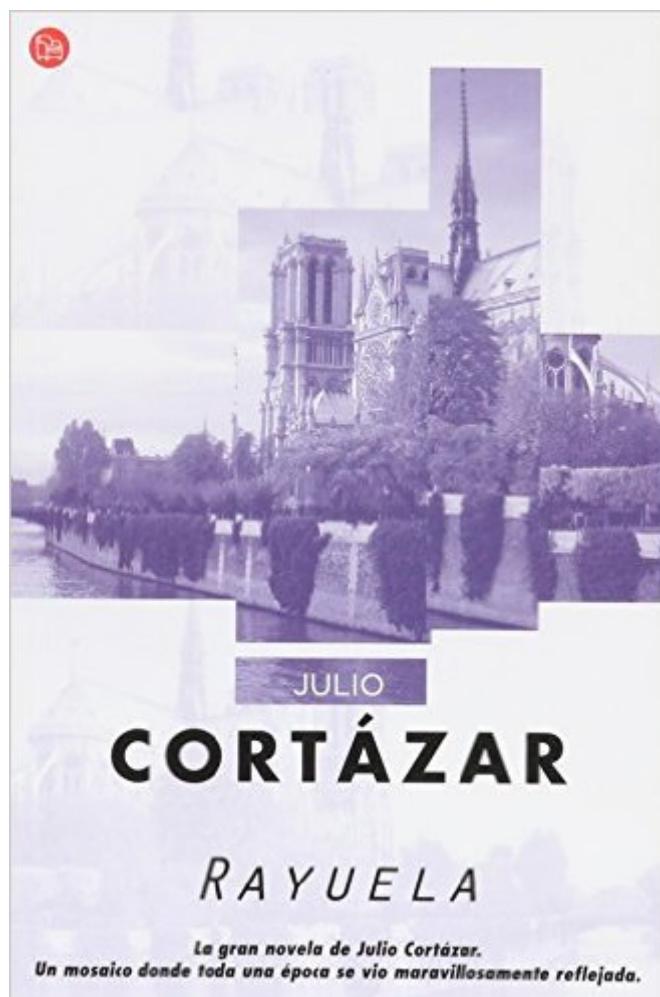


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Rayuela (Spanish Edition)



Synopsis

Prosa hecha de aire, sin peso ni cuerpo pero que sopla con ímpetu y levanta en nuestras mentes bandadas de imágenes y visiones, vaso comunicante entre los ritmos callejeros de la ciudad y el soliloquio del poeta. • Octavio Paz *Contranovela* •, *crónica* de una locura •, *el agujero negro* de un enorme embudo •, *un feroz sacudón* por las solapas •, *un grito de alerta* •, *una especie de bomba atómica* •, *una llamada al desorden necesario* •, *una gigantesca humorada* •, *un balbuceo* ... Con estas y otras expresiones se aludió a *Rayuela*, la novela que Julio Cortázar comenzó a soñar en 1958, se publicó en 1963 y a partir de entonces cambió la historia de la literatura así como sacudió la vida de miles de jóvenes en todo el mundo. Plena de ambición literaria y vital, renovadora de las herramientas narrativas, destructora de lo establecido y buscadora de la raíz de la poesía, durante todas estas décadas *Rayuela* siguió siendo leída con curiosidad, asombro, intercisos o devoción. Llega a los lectores hoy, en su aniversario número 50, acompañada de un apéndice donde Cortázar mismo cuenta la historia del libro que buscó el más allá de todas las fronteras.

ENGLISH DESCRIPTION • *Counternovel*, • *chronicle of madness*, • *the black hole in an enormous funnel*, • *a shout of alert*, • *a type of atomic bomb*, • *a call to necessary disorder*, • *an immense cloud of smoke*. • These are just some of the expressions that have been used to refer to *Rayuela*, the novel Julio Cortázar began to dream up in 1958 and published in 1963, *Rayuela*'s arrival had a profound impact on the cultural scene of its time, jolted readers worldwide, and triggered a true revolution in Spanish-language fiction changing the course of literature. Even after five decades, it is avidly read by new and devoted fans. Brimming with literary ambition and vitality, *Rayuela* reformed narrative tools, destroyed established paradigms and searched for the origins of poetry. For its fiftieth anniversary, Alfaguara is publishing this limited commemorative edition that includes an appendix where Cortázar himself tells the story of the book."

Book Information

Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: Punto de Lectura; Reprint edition (December 29, 2015)

Language: Spanish

ISBN-10: 9707311185

ISBN-13: 978-9707311183

Product Dimensions: 4.9 x 1.4 x 7.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (127 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Reading this book together with a friend, (she has a different version then mine, I have this one), I discovered that my book was missing parts of the sentences. AWFUL!!! I was very disappointed with this edition. If you look at the page 196 chapter 16, half way through the page, a sentence that starts with "Y de golpe, con una desapasionada perfección, Earl Hines proponía a la primera variación de I ain't got nobody, y hasta Pericío perdido en una lectura remota, alzaba la cabeza (Y SE QUEDABA ESCUCHANDO, LA MAGA HABA AQUIETADO LA CABEZA) contra el muslo de Gregorovius...All that part that I wrote in capital letters is missing in this version of the book. This edition should be REEDITED and not sold like this. IT RUINS THIS AMAZING WORK OF Cortázar.

It has taken me years to sit down and finally make a serious commitment to read Julio Cortázar's "Hopscotch/La Rayuela." I cannot think of a better companion to devote a few weeks to, maybe even longer - hey, whatever it takes! It depends on your reading speed and the time you take to truly savor the poetry of the author's language. So, be willing to make a small personal investment in this very special novel, and the reward you reap will be a worthy one. Julio Cortázar will take you to places you have never been before in literature, and may never experience again. I read "Hopscotch" over this past summer, after a thirty year delay. I can be very stubborn about putting off what is good for me!! The author's imagination is boundless, his prose rich and luminous, his wit and sophistication rare, the dialogue brilliant, the plot...I won't attempt to describe that with a few adjectives. Wander through the extraordinary labyrinthine plot on your own - the way is yours to discover. I promise, you won't get lost! I was introduced to "La Rayuela" about thirty years ago, when a close friend, with similar reading tastes, gave me the book. Enthused after just reading the novel, he told me that I reminded him of one of the characters, La Maga. (What a compliment...I think!). I was living in Latin America at the time. With personal interests at stake and much curiosity, I bought a copy in Spanish, which I read with some fluency back then. After experimenting with which way to approach the novel, and trying both ways, I gave up...and just read the parts about La Maga. I had

little patience at that point in my life, and needed to acquire some, and to read slower, with more of a sense of play and participation. Cortazar wants his readers to participate - to make reading his book an interactive experience, not a passive one. I was and still feel touched when I remember my friend's comments regarding La Maga. She is a magnificent character and Cortazar's prose, his language, (Spanish), is exquisite. So, about a year later, I thought I'd give it another try, in English, perhaps with better results. None! I just wasn't ready, I guess. That happens to me with fiction occasionally. I have to be open to the experience. Yet, after all these years, I still thought of Horacio Oliveira and La Maga from time to time. And why not? They are truly unforgettable. As I wrote above, I did make time, at last. For an adventure of a lifetime, I recommend you do the same. When Julio Cortazar published "La Rayuela" in 1966, he turned the conventional novel upside-down and the literary world on its ear with this experiment in writing fiction. He soon became an important influence on writers everywhere. "Hopscotch" is considered to be one of the best novels written in Spanish. The work is interactive, where readers are invited to rearrange its text and read sections in different sequences. Read in a linear fashion, "Hopscotch" contains 700 pages, 155 chapters in three sections: "From the Other Side," and "From This Side" - the first two sections are sustained by relatively chronological narratives and so contrast greatly with the third section, "From Diverse Sides," (subtitled "Expendable Chapters"), which includes philosophical extrapolation, character study, allusions and quotations, and an entirely different version of the "ending." The book has no table of contents, but rather a "Table of Instructions." There, we learn that two approved readings are possible: from Chapter 1 through 56 "in a normal fashion", or from Chapter 73 to Chapter 1 to... well, wherever the chapters lead you. The instructions are all in your book and are extremely clear. At the end of each chapter there is a numeric indicator to lead the reader to the next chapter. One never knows where one will be lead. Due to its meandering nature, "Hopscotch" has been called a "Proto-hypertext" novel. Cortazar probably had this work in mind when he stated, "If I had the technical means to print my own books, I think I would keep on producing collage-books." Horacio Oliveira, our protagonist and sometimes narrator, is an Argentinean expatriate, an intellectual and professed writer in 1950's bohemian Paris. He and his close friends, members of "the Club," do lots of partying, drinking, and intellectualizing, discussing art, literature, music and solving the world's problems. Oliveira lives with and loves La Maga, an exotic young woman, somewhat whimsical, at times almost ephemeral, who leaves behind her, like the scent of a light perfume, a feeling of poignancy and inevitable loss. La Maga refuses to plan her encounters with Oliveira in advance, preferring instead to run into each other by chance. Then she and Oliveira celebrate the series of circumstances that reunite them. Eventually, he loses La Maga, who loses her child. With her

absence, Oliveira realizes how empty and meaningless his life is and he returns to his native Buenos Aires. There he finds work first as a salesman, then a keeper of a circus cat, and an attendant in an insane asylum. As Oliveira wends his way through France, Uruguay and Argentina looking for his lost love, "Hopscotch's" narrative takes on an emotionally intense stream of consciousness style, rich in metaphor. Back In Argentina, Oliveira shares his life with his bizarre double, Traveler, and Traveler's wife, Talita, whom Oliveira attempts to remake into a facsimile of La Maga. The game of hopscotch is only developed as a conceit late in the narrative. It is first used to describe Oliveira's confused love for La Maga as "that crazy hopscotch." The theme develops as a metaphor for reaching Heaven from Earth. "When practically no one has learned how to make the pebble climb into Heaven, childhood is over all of a sudden and you're into novels, into the anguish of the senseless divine trajectory, into the speculation about another Heaven that you have to learn to reach too." The variations on the children's game are described as "spiral hopscotch, rectangular hopscotch, fantasy hopscotch, not played very often." The allusions continue and include some beautiful passages. "Hopscotch" is much more than a novel. Ultimately, it is best left for each reader to define what it is for himself/herself. Pablo Neruda in a famous quote said, "People who do not read Cortazar are doomed. Not to read him is a serious invisible disease." I don't know whether I would go so far. Remember, I put off the experience for many years. But this is one novel that should be read during one's lifetime. It is brilliant and it is fun! JANA

He leÃ±o esta obra maestra, en el curso de 30 aÃ±os, unas 5 veces. Y siempre es un nuevo libro para mÃ±o. Aunque conozco muy bien a sus personajes, en cada leÃ±ada, se me aparecen de forma diferente; me hablan distinto. No creo, pueda hallar otro libro, que me inspire tanta hambre de vivir, ni tanta alegrÃa, ni mucho menos, que me provoque tanta reflexiÃ³n. Lo recomiendo absolutamente, pero cuidado: uno se puede quedar del lado de allÃ¡...

este libro es todo eso y mas,. es un juego, es como la vida es, una marana de cosas sueltas atadas por la casualidad y la causalidad, el autor nos lleva por el mundo, que se vive de momento, a retazos, a fragmentos, que puede ser leido y descifrado de varias formas o puede perderte como en un laberinto de palabras e ideas. es verdaderamente increible la inventiva de cortazar, su habilidad con la palabra y las ideas es sencillamente maravillosa. este libro es un pilar de la literatura en espanol y demuestra que nuestra literatura esta a la altura de cualquier otra Luis Mendez.

I had to contact about this edition because is terribly edited, really bad spanish, more like if it would

have been translated very poorly from another language but the original is in Spanish! Or if the copy was just the result of scanning the book badly ...thanks to I got a refund but this edition should be taken down!...I am not sure about the good reviews, but Spanish is my first lanngauge and this is a terrible edition of a great book!

Pero el amor, esa palabra... y asÃ- pasamos al capÃ- tulo siete. vienen tambiÃ©n la metafÃ- sica, la frustraciÃ- n, la irÃ- nica descripciÃ- n del absurdo de estos mundos que habitamos. Un libro que no se termina, que se lee infinitamente, que va y viene siempre trayendo algo nuevo. ParaÃ- so del lingÃ- ista, del intelectual, del enamorado y del loco.

I was very dissapointed with chapter 34. This chapter has two story but the ebook messed it up so everything was messy and unreadable. should review this copy and update it.

Rayuela is a book of questions and few answers that leaves a lot to the reader imagination and interpretation. It centers in the bohemian lifestyles of a group of men and women mostly foreigners living in Paris. The main character is Oliveriafrom Argentina and his lover la maga from Uruguay. The writing is superb in Cortazar"s native Spanish, although hard to read at times unless you dominate both English and French due to frequent quotes in both languages.. Like its title Rayuela jumps in characters , situations scenes and even countries in a way that is dizzying and intimidating. Art, literature, philosophy,mythology and much more in every page, so this is not a light novel for summer reading at the beach.

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