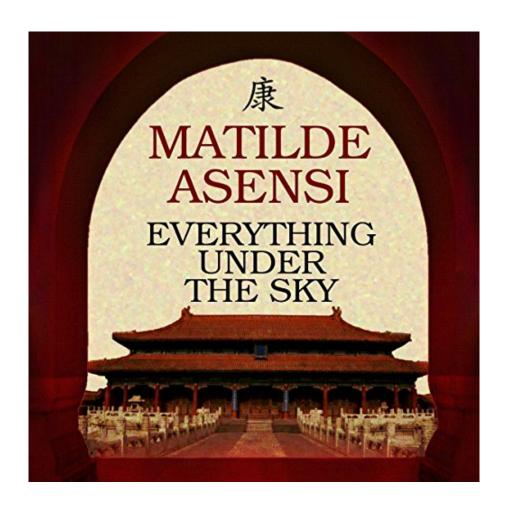


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A great adventure in search of the First Emperor's treasure.

The book was second place for the International Latino Award. Over 1,000,000 copies sold worldwide by the so-called "Queen of the Spanish Adventure Fiction", one of the top writers in the Spanish language, and author of the best seller The Last Cato.

Set during the 1920s, Elvira De Poulain, a Spanish painter based in Paris, receives news that her estranged husband, now running the family textile business in China, has died in his house in Shanghai under strange circumstances and that she must make appropriate funeral arrangements. Accompanied by her niece, she leaves Marseille by boat to retrieve Rémy's body and claim her share of his worldly goods, unaware that this journey is the beginning of a compelling quest through China in search of the First Emperor's treasure.

After an eventful voyage, they finally arrive, and Elvira and Fernanda soon find themselves immersed in an underworld of gangsters, opium dens, and political intrigues.

The book has been successfully published in seven countries: US, Italy, Brazil, Holland, Greece, Romania, and Portugal.

• Sales Rank: #152863 in Audible

Published on: 2015-05-21Format: Unabridged

Original language: English Running time: 801 minutes

Most helpful customer reviews

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Another beautiful novel by Asensi

By ellen

Matilde Asensi is one of the queens of the historical novel - the problem is, Everything Under the Sky is only the 2nd book of all her books to be published in English - The first book, The Last Cato, is one of my all time favorite books - it dealt with quests in and around the Mediterranean - great read if you haven't read it already -

Everything Under the Sky is as great a book as Cato, but it is not the rollercoaster action of Cato, rather immerses you in the Chinese culture and legends, and in its own way sends you on another equally dazzling quest.

Elvira De Poulain, a Spanish painter living in Paris circa 1920 is travelling to Shanghai with her prudish niece Fernanda. Elvira has been notified her husband is dead. She does not know his death wasn't more than an accident.

After a harrowing journey, Elvira finds her husband incurred a crushing amount of debt. Selling everything she owned will not cover a minute part of the debt.

At a fete an Irishman approaches her that the lives of her and her niece's are in danger - that her husband was murdered because he had in his possession an artifact so precious it could clarify history and make the owner filthy rich to boot!

After finding Tichborne's story is correct, Elvira meets an antiquarian, Mr. Jiang, they embark on a journey to find the lost mausoleum of the First Emperor of China and the riches it holds!

The care Asensi writes with to paint a picture as eloquently as a Chinese calligraphy is amazing - the details of the trip through China to find the mausoleum, the description of the tomb itself, it so beautifully presented, you will want to stop and take in the intricasy and ease it was presented to you.

It is as wonderful as The Last Cato, but in its way, it has adopted the quiet dignity of the Chinese culture and shown an exciting quest in those eyes.

An excellent read.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Indiana Jones meets the (Chinese) Maltese Falcon By BR

I meant what I said in the title; "Everything Under the Sun," reads like an Indiana Jones adventure, except it has the mistiness, darkness and speed of "The Maltese Falcon." You might even include a little "Star Wars," since a good part of the book is about people finding their way in a new frontier, in hopes of bettering life for others.

Elvira is a young Spanish painter who finds herself in deep trouble in the Shanghai of the 1920s, due to her husband's weakness for drugs, women and other amusements. With her teenage niece, her servant, a very learned Chinese antiquarian and an Irish journalist, she sets out to unify the pieces of a cultural treasure which will earn her enough money to pay off her husband's debts and return to Paris.

The reader learns a great deal about Chinese culture, literature, history and ways of thinking as Elvira and her partners are attacked by the Green Gang, learn more about their treasure in a Chinese monastery, exist on rice balls and hot tea as they journey closer to their treasure and suffer all kinds of indignities in the process.

A little less description would have been fine but I enjoyed "Everything Under The Sky" and would definitely read another by the author.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Fun and Interesting Read

By Fodos

I Read The Last Cato quite some time ago, and having thoroughly enjoyed it, was thrilled to find that another of Asensi's books had been translated into English. Without repeating the general story line, I found reading this book to be like watching Romancing the Stone or Indiana Jones. It would make a great movie in that genre, or possibly a video game with lot's of puzzles and riddles to solve. It is easy to read, touches on some of the concepts of Taoism and gives you a sense of what China was like back in the 1920's. There are also references to China's long and fascinating history mixed in with the action. Just enough information to get your curiosity up and perhaps propel you to delve deeper into China's history, culture and philosophies on your own.

With few chapters or breaks and a very fast pace, you'll find yourself searching for a place to stop so you can grab something to eat. This isn't easy as each section segues into another adventure almost immediately. A very enjoyable and fun read!

See all 68 customer reviews...

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