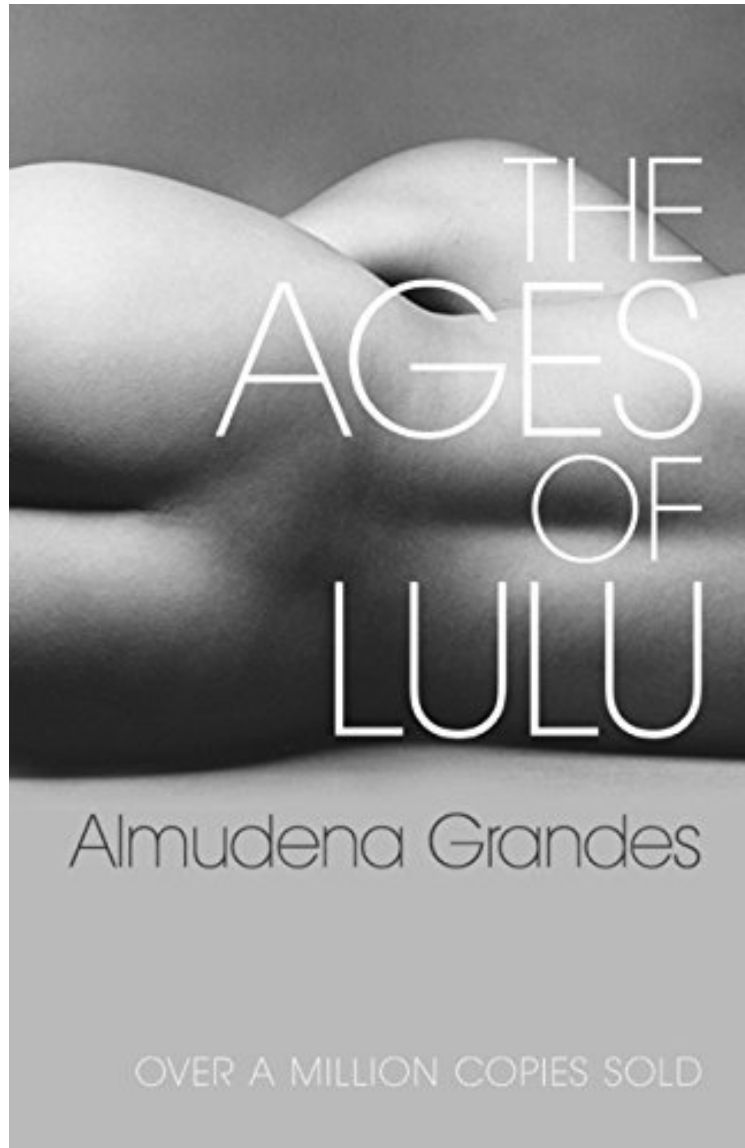


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The Ages of Lulu (English Edition)

Von Almudena Grandes

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Von Almudena Grandes : The Ages of Lulu (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ages of Lulu (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Well-written turnoffVon Ein KundeI ordered this book expecting a titillating read, and ended up enjoying it more as a well-written exposition of the obsessions of a rather unfortunate young woman.Like Nabokov's *_Lolita_*, *_The Ages of Lulu_* is often perceived as scandalous erotica, but in fact deals in a fairly pedestrian way with common forms of

fetishism, especially sado-masochism and pedophilia (although the narrator is 15, hardly a little child, when she has her first experience). What is more interesting about the book, however, is the depiction of a woman who enjoys watching gay men having sex -- the flip-side, as she insightfully notes, of the much more common habit of men enjoying "lesbian" erotica. My own experience talking to real women makes me think that this kind of fetish is much more common than one might think, which makes the depiction of it in "Lulu" somewhat refreshing and novel. Unlike some reviewers, I enjoyed the use of British English slang, which added an air of foreignness to the story -- entirely appropriate, since it takes place in Madrid. Ultimately, though, Lulu's self-destructive and selfish behavior, like that of the hero in *Lolita*, made me feel sorry for her and the people in her life (especially her neglected daughter), and the ending seemed abrupt and perfunctory, not well-thought-out at all. Perhaps Ms. Grandes was writing for a deadline. What prevents me from giving the book another star is the excessive use of erotic-lit clichés -- everything is swelling, bursting, exploding, over and over again, to the point where it sounds like a recipe, rather than a real experience. So... if you're interested in a well-written fictional journal of female sexual obsession, I recommend this book. But if you're looking for an arousing piece of erotica, I can't say there's much in Lulu that will satisfy you. To be fair, I am a 33-year-old male heterosexual with a conventional, liberal upbringing.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. sensitive, sensual, and sexy Von Sondra Rosenberg this book was so wonderful. falling in love with an older man at such a young age, Lulu thinks he is the meaning of her life. she wants to stay a child because that is how he fell in love with her and she's so afraid that if she grows up he won't want her - she is obsessed with his desire for her. later on she finds herself paying to watch (and sometimes join) gay men in sexual encounters, discovering what it is like to be the desirer - to say who and when and how much - and not the desired. the ages of Lulu is a powerful and endearing exploration of a young woman's fears and desires. the "surrealist episode" is unforgettable... i simply fell in love with her!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. First introduction to erotica... Von Ein Kunde I read this book several years ago while in high school. I found this book to be very refreshing, fun, erotic, and interesting. I related to some parts of Lulu's experiences, and that to me is incredible because it made it more vivid. As I read this book, I could mentally picture each scene as if it was a movie, I could imagine Lulu's expressions of her emotions, and the emotions and expressions of the other characters too. I really enjoyed this book, I've read it more than once and passed it along to my friends who also enjoyed it immensely.

Kurzbeschreibung A stunning erotic novel that has sold over 1 million copies worldwide - FIFTY SHADES OF GREY for a more sophisticated and adventurous reader. Long before FIFTY SHADES OF GREY, Grandes was dazzling the literary world with this highly charged novel about a young woman embarking on a series of sexual adventures. Lulu's journey begins when she loses her virginity to Pablo - her brother's best friend and twelve years her senior. Their relationship is obsessive - not possessive - and their appetites for new erotic territory are insatiable. Lulu's thirst for sexual discovery takes her through voyeurism, power plays and homoeroticism. But soon her forays into illicit and dangerous sex threaten to absorb her completely. From Publishers Weekly Set in Madrid, this luridly inventive first novel strives to shock but instead proves that a woman's quasi-pornographic erotic fiction can be as mechanical, repetitive, graphic and cerebral as men's contribution to the genre. The story follows the sexual awakening of narrator Lulu, seduced at age 15 by an old family friend, Pablo, who poses as her guardian and then as her father, and who ultimately marries her. Echoes of Sade and *The Story of O* abound as Lulu has sex with her schoolmistress; enjoys a threesome with Pablo and a transvestite; obsessively beds homosexual men; is blindfolded, tied down and gang-raped; and then is raped by her brother Marcelo. Lulu's struggle to free herself of brutal, alcoholic Pablo's smothering grip, and her fitful concern for her small daughter, Ines, who seems utterly lost and insignificant amid the assorted sexual frenzies, are perfunctory plot elements in an overly busy narrative that reveals an almost fetishistic obsession with sadomasochism, bondage, oral sex, sodomy, depilation, masturbation, voyeurism and so forth. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist This intensely erotic novel consists of the sexual awakening and subsequent adventures of Maria Luisa Ruiz-Poveda y Garcia de la Casa, a young woman from Madrid whose middle-class family calls her Lulu. Lulu's erotic tastes are always on the cutting edge: When just a schoolgirl, she is seduced by the much older Pablo, a friend of her older brother with a thing for adolescent girls. Later, while in the university, she is initiated into various nonmainstream sexual practices by Pablo, now a professor. Lulu develops an avid taste for Madrid's seamier sexual subcultures, ranging from bisexual group sex to a graphically depicted, nearly fatal bout with rough trade. Powerfully written and imparting a disturbing, immediate impact, Grandes' novel, like those of such other Grove authors as De Sade and Reage, might rouse the ire of censorious citizens in many libraries' communities, yet on purely literary grounds, it is a powerful essay into the darker side of female sexuality. John Shreffler