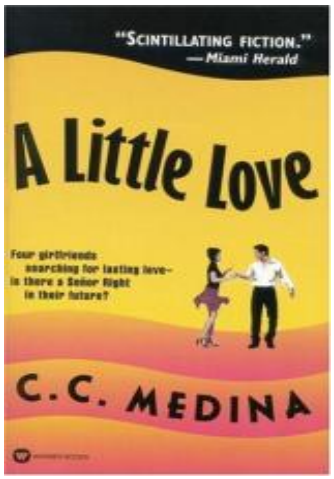
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A Little Love

by C. C. Medina



About the Book

FOUR UNFORGETTABLE WOMEN ONE EXTRAORDINARY FRIENDSHIP

Set to the distinctly Latin beat of Miami, C. C. Medina's debut novel introduces four Hispanic women, their lives, loves, and, most of all, their friendship. From the bedrooms to the bars, from the dance floors to their kitchen tables, follow these amigas?Isabel Landon is a successful engineer reeling from a tough divorce who meets a free-spirited writer who will shake her to the core. María Mercedes Virtudes, aka Mercy, careens through life with a zest for fun and men until her mamá urges her toward el matrimonio. Lucinda Portes de Colón had a charmed existence but is forced by her husband's betrayal to survive for the first time on her own. Julia Velásquez is a writer facing a moral crossroads, yet even her dearest friends may not stand beside her.

Over tapas and Cointreau, these four amigas laugh and shed bittersweet tears at the absurdity of life. In the end, their values are universal. Amistad y amor. Or, in other words, friendship and **A Little Love**.

Discussion Guide

1. How do each of the main characters reflect a different aspect or attribute of the modern urban woman?

2. How do the lives of these women reinforce or contradict your expectations of Latina women? How and why so?

3. How does the novel explore the burgeoning economic power of the Latina woman in American society?

4. How does the title of the book reveal a common thread in the lives of the four main characters?

5. How does the novel reveal values common to the Latino culture such as the importance of family, friendship, and

education? Can you relate to these? Why or why not?

6. In particular, where do you see the value of the multi-generational extended family revealed?

7. In Lucinda's case, do you believe her way of dealing with her husband's infidelity was effective?

8. How does Mercy transform herself by the end of the novel? or does she?

9. What is Isabel's conflict? What is stopping her from embracing relationships with men in general, with Orlando in particular?

10. How does Julia's experience offer an alternative perspective on Latinas in general, and specifically on lesbians?

11. How do the other friends react to Julia's relationship with Beatriz? Which of the three friends reacts in a more predictable way in your mind?

12. How do the lives of these women explore the search for identity, especially in a bi-cultural world? Do you see these characters as searching? or as grounded in their culture or cultures?

13. How do you see the conflicts between cultures and generations manifested in the plot?

14. How does the use of Spanish play a part in depicting the cultural reality of the environment in which these women live?

15. How does Lucinda's predicament help to depict the conflict between upper class Latin American society and the more egalitarian American values, regardless of class?

16. What role does humor play in the novel, particularly in dealing with sensitive topics such as class conflicts, adultery, promiscuity, homosexuality, politics, and even religion?

Author Bio

My name is C.C. Medina but I am really the literary creation of two different people. They gave me life! Though I am a figment of their imagination or a craving or a desperation, I have taken on a persona all my own. Indeed, they can't write without me. So who am I really? Here goes....

C.C. stands for Carolina and Carlos, my creators in the flesh. They are married, have been for 24 years this July. You could say I am the ultimate wedding anniversary present, though I was a difficult birth. It took them 2.5 years to get me out. Anyway, these two have two fantastic kids. Nicole, who is 16, and Sonora who is four. The fantastic thing about them is that they have the same parents. That has to be a record now-a-days. This American family of Cuban descent lives and loves in Miami, Florida, the Hyphen capital of the world. Ahora, a few words about Carolina Hospital. Si, that is her REAL last name. When she went to the marriage registrar to get the license, the clerk smirked. "I'll bet you're glad

to get rid of that name." Carolina, in her diplomatically direct way, gave her a dirty look and said, "No. It is a name from a small town in the Pyrenees and I like it." The clerk smirked again. You just can't budge a clerk.

So, she is a professor of Literature and Composition as well as a poet and established expert on Hispanic literature in the U.S.A. She wrote a few really ground-breaking anthologies and other stuff. Once in a while, when the mood strikes her, she'll write essays on pregnancy, Cuban bodies, husbands of pregnant wives, nature walks, food as life, and sex. Ahora si! I got your attention. She was a writer among 13 who contributed to the *New York Time's* Best Seller list's *"Naked Came the Manatee."* In Miami, anything is possible...

Carolina likes to bike ride, garden, cook, read, talk, paint, play dominoes, and dance the night away. With Carlos of course. Carlos Medina, whose last name in el mundo Latino is as common as Smith, but with an added twist, in Arabic it means ghetto, is the guy-side of me. He is tall, tanned, blondish, and muscular as well as smart and suave. Not really, but I like to tease him with all sorts of fictional possibilities! In truth, he is a cross between Harrison Ford and Woody Allen.

Carlos is a Middle School teacher and a sailing coach down on the Coconut Grove side of Miami. He loves kids and has been a storyteller as well as a ham. The most significant thing he has done in his life is be the official clown at Sonora's 4th birthday party. Why is this so significant? Sonora smiled a lot.

He has been recognized as Teacher of the Year and Peace Educator of the Year, as well as an educational innovator. You might be asking yourself why me? Why did they create me, C.C. Medina? Well, I came in the night while Carolina was reading her poetry on a city sidewalk and Carlos was watching. I was looking for a place to stay, to express my most inner yearnings, my secrets, my desires, my loves and my lifes. I possessed them that night. And they haven't been the same since. Read **A Little Love** and you'll see what I mean....

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