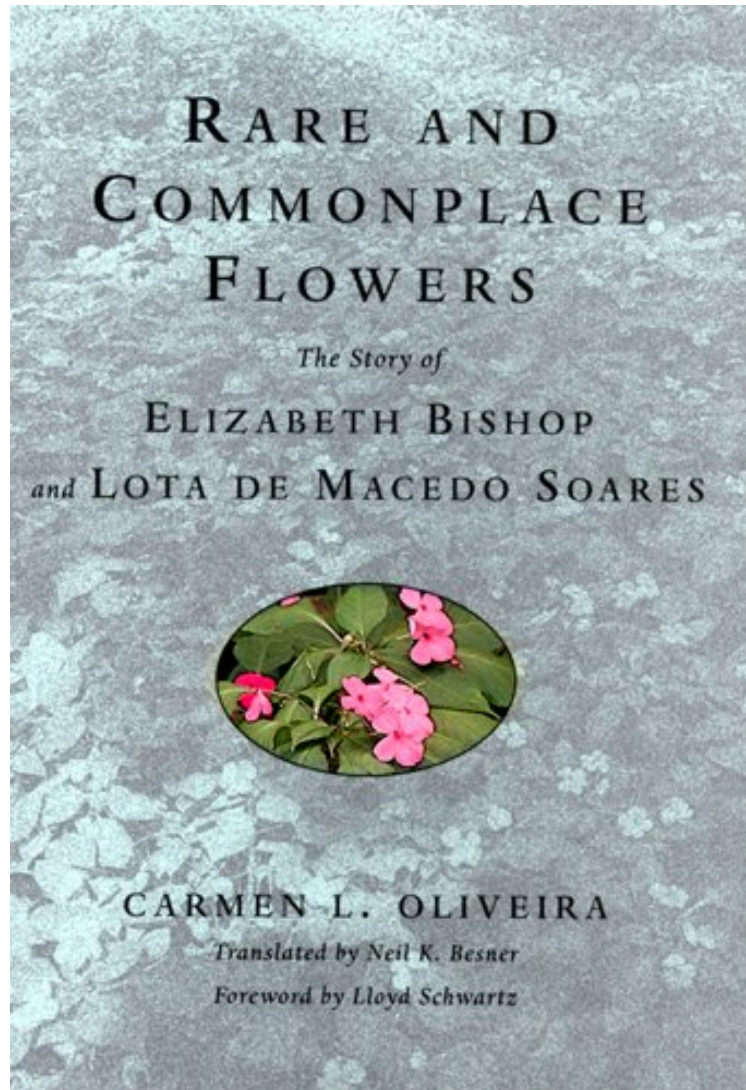


(Download) Rare and Commonplace Flowers: The Story of Elizabeth Bishop and Lota de Macedo Soares

Rare and Commonplace Flowers: The Story of Elizabeth Bishop and Lota de Macedo Soares

Carmen Oliveira

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#1068301 in Books Rutgers University Press 2003-08-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.02 x .50 x 5.981, .82 #File Name: 0813533597218 pages | File size: 31.Mb

Carmen Oliveira : Rare and Commonplace Flowers: The Story of Elizabeth Bishop and Lota de Macedo Soares before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rare and Commonplace Flowers: The Story of Elizabeth Bishop and Lota de Macedo Soares:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Luscious book about a doomed affair By WeHo book lover Seeing the film, "Reaching for the Moon" about the relationship between the American poet Elizabeth Bishop and Brazilian architect Lota De Macedo Soares, I was inspired to read the story in its original book form. This translation is lovely.

Talk about star-crossed lovers! This relationship was doomed from the beginning and could only end badly. They were both too disturbed, too narcissistic, and too in love with alcohol to have anything other than the tumultuous, on-again/off-again affair they carried on for nearly two decades until Soares' untimely death from an overdose (accidental?). They were chic, sophisticated, knew everyone, and were sought after by everyone who was anyone. Living in that rarefied atmosphere requires the MOST sober and level-headed approach to relationships. These two women were anything but - a most compelling read. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Frankly Disappointing By Kittenheelz I read this novel after viewing "Reaching for the Moon." As usual, the scriptwriters took liberties with the source but in this case the liberties were improvements. For fans of Elizabeth Bishop, this so-called novel is very dreary reading. At least three quarters of the novel is devoted to the blow by blow political struggles that engulfed Bishop's lover and partner Lota Soares during her long tangle with the Brazilian government over plans for an ambitious park development in Rio. These struggles are recounted in the manner of a diligent college sophomore relentlessly citing newspaper accounts for a term paper. For her part, Bishop is shown with very little sympathy or insight by the author who instead relies on unflattering interviews given by Lota's friends to complete the picture of their friendship with a nod to the fact that at least Lota believed her to be a genius. Perhaps something truly was lost in the translation from Brazilian to English, perhaps the American Bishop was never meant to be more than a troubling curiosity in this Brazilian "fiction." Either way, if you're after a lyrical, moving, even-handed account of the love affair between Lota and Bishop this is one of the rare times you should skip the book and watch the movie instead. I give it two stars instead of one because it was well researched; too bad it couldn't have been better written. (Oddly, the opening sample pages were very well done, enticing me to buy and then everything fell flat after that.) 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Perhaps the less said the better as I simply encourage the read By Qzzer What can I say that would do justice to the characters portrayed in this exquisite translation. Perhaps the less said the better as I simply encourage the read. Seeing inside these two, complicated and remarkable women has been a great joy for me. Their art and lives unfolded naturally and I've been transported in place and time- I understand their attraction, love and their appreciation for one another and beautiful to witness. Thank you Carmen L. Oliveira for sharing your story of Lota and Elizabeth and Many thanks Neal for talking the time to share it with us.

Rare and Commonplace Flowers, a Brazilian bestseller, tells the story of two women. Elizabeth Bishop, the Pulitzer Prizewinning American poet, sought artistic inspiration in Brazil. There she met and fell in love with Lota de Macedo Soares, a self-trained Brazilian architect. This dual biography, brilliantly researched, and written in a lively, novelistic style, follows their relationship from 1951 to 1967, the time when the two lived together in Brazil. The fact that these two women had an intimate relationship caused an uproar when it first came to public notice. The relationship started out happily, yet ended tragically. In 1961, Soares became increasingly obsessed with building and administering Flamengo Park, Rio de Janeiro's equivalent to New York City's Central Park. Though she had been the driving force behind the park's inception, the ultimate credit that was due her was stripped away because of petty politics and chicanery. As Soares' career declined and Bishop's flourished, their relationship crumbled. Rare and Commonplace Flowers is a tale of two artists and two cultures, offering unique perspectives on both women and their work. Carmen L. Oliveira provides an unparalleled level of detail and insight, due to both her familiarity with Brazil as well as her access to the country's artistic elite, many of whom had a direct connection with Bishop and Soares. Rare pictures of the two artists and their home bring this unique story to life.

From Library Journal At age 40, the celebrated American poet Elizabeth Bishop met and fell in love with a Brazilian woman named Lota de Macedo Soares. The two lived together in Brazil from 1951 to 1967. Novelist Oliveira's engaging dual biography tells of their "long and sad" relationship. Because most of the letters between the lovers were destroyed, Oliveira fills in conversations and personal scenes with a novelistic touch that may irritate those looking for a more precise reconstruction of events. Furthermore, Oliveira, a Brazilian herself, tends to focus heavily on Lota, "a marvel and a terror" whose obsessive desire to fight through Brazilian bureaucracy to build a landmark park in Rio de Janeiro ruined her health and her relationship with Bishop. By contrast, Bishop's personality is much less fully rendered. Nevertheless, this book offers a new perspective on the American poet, and the love story between these two women is undeniably intense and tragic. Recommended for academic collections. Amy Strong, South Portland, ME Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. "Rare and Commonplace Flowers performs an invaluable service: unforgettably memorializing the remarkable Lota de Macedo Soares, and in the process filling in a crucial gap in Bishop's biography.... This book helps put... [Bishop's] writing in useful context. It honors a deeply moving love between two brilliant women: each highly public, a celebrity in her own nation; each deeply private, and happy (for a time) in the fragile heaven of their home." "Novelist Oliveira's engaging dual biography tells of [Bishop and Soares's] 'long and sad' relationship.... This book offers a new perspective on the American poet, and the love story between these two women is undeniably intense and tragic. Recommended." Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: Portuguese