

The Lost Princess of Alicante

E.V. Padilla

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The Lost Princess of Alicante is a historical novel that moves from the Caribbean Islands in the 1600s to the modern American Southwest, and back. The legacy of a ruler's dream of building an enlightened society has come to roost in corrupted ideals that moved away from this vision and into a political and social structure that is anything but ideal.

Two women, Inés and her Aunt Sofia, find themselves mired in choices of the past and their incarnation in their present-day lives as they navigate the politics and social requirements of a newly installed princess who holds little familiarity with her revised role and heritage.

Don Román Velásquez, Sofia's wealthy cousin, may have uncovered a truth, but he's shaken their lives with not just his discovery, but a kingdom's recovery of a leader who steps into a new role and faces the fact that a few days with Prince Agustín's carefree son Alejandro has resulted in a new legacy that portends her ongoing connections to this strange new world.

Her confrontation with spies, the dangerous Grizzle-Beard, and abuse that transfers handily from her aunt to greater struggles in her new life injects life and surprising twists into the story of a young woman who doesn't step into a new role and life, but is pulled and falls into it with few choices.

Can descendants really restore an ideal and a dream? Should they be called from their own worlds to do so?

E.V. Padilla poses many interesting questions in the course of building a novel that rests not only on historical precedents and modern conundrums, but the psyches of women who find themselves mired in a situation they never dreamed of.

From the birth and death of dreams to portents of the future which emerge in unexpected ways, the social and political confrontations are just as vibrant as the personal revelations Padilla builds among characters that hold their own special interests and perceptions of choice and future in hand.

The Lost Princess of Alicante presents many characters and forces at work in the evolution of its story. No light read, it will pique the mind with shifting relationships that come from arenas of abuse, domination, political struggle, and personal growth.

Libraries and readers seeking historical novels that represent intriguing discoveries that require characters move beyond their personal ambitions to assume bigger roles in life will find *The Lost Princess of Alicante* filled with discussion points and thought-provoking moments.