

"Ecati's smile" reviews

In "Ecati's smile", author Litsa Psarafi has achieved a difficult task: depicting an entire world, the Greek, at various phases of its history and skirting the conventions which govern the writing of a historical novel... With the inspired use of the necklace, passed successively down to the possession of each of the four heroines, (she) is able to make the time leaps which allows her to shed light both on historical periods as well as on the different forms of the girlish sexual awakenings. Her narrative approach is equal to the spontaneity and the timidity, to the courage and the self-restraint that is the essence of adolescence.....

Sophia Hatzidimitriou,
"The Educators' Society Magazine", March - May 1998.

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"Ecati's smile" is a milestone in children's literature in our country. An inspired historical journey, it is full of love, magic and strong messages... This book – bewitching and rich in its language – is written with a deep love for our country, a love which can be traced in each separate story. (The reader) admires and recognises the intimacy which touches the mountains, the marbles, the beaches, the monasteries and the contemporary motorways of present life. Each image of each era which has passed over the body of our country has the power to move. You feel that you have been touched by the breath of things past that continue to exercise upon us the charm of our distinctive history.

Ms Psarafti's effortless ability to capture the atmosphere and feel of the times, to slip into the linguistic landscape, is exceptional. Ecati's smile is not only the schematic smile of an ancient necklace... Ecati's smile is a hopeful smile upon the standards of our literature. Works such as this of Ms Psarafti's makes our literature vigorous and flourishing, giving it the attention it deserves.

Elsa Hiou, "Haravgi" newspaper, Samos, April 11, 1998.

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I must say at the outset that I believe this attempt a success and an exceptional work for Greek literature. Based on sources deeply understood and diligently traced, the writer lets her talent invest the narrative framework of her book with detail. I point in particular to the moving instance of Areti (1808 A.D.), in which the folkloric and historical data interweave with the main and definitive fabric of the narrative and become cohesive factors in the entire text.

The desires and passions of the heroines of the book, which are always kept on an idealistic level, are the constants throughout the narrative, which interweaves with the historical facts to highlight, in the final analysis, what is multifaceted and of value in our daily routine.

This then is an outstanding book, which should, I believe, be read by all because it combines literary worth with accuracy in a number of aspects.

The awarding of the prize was entirely justified and Ms. Psarafti's book meets, I believe, the expectations of the most demanding or difficult of readers. We thank her for that.

M.G. Varvouni, "Samiakon Vima" newspaper, June 23, 1997

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The new story by Litsa Psarafi is her most mature work, possibly the most interesting and the result of a unique inspiration, but also exhaustive research.

All this historical journeying is interesting. And portrayed graphically and knowledgeably. And if one were to extract some of the most beautiful parts from all these beautiful pages, then surely the story of the nun Theoniki, the Byzantine story, would steal one's heart. It contains passion, purity, faith and innocence, atmosphere and historical accuracy and a spiritual love that is unique.

Eleni Sarantiti, "Eleftherotypia" newspaper, February 21, 1996

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The novel in question is an important work of unequalled narrative force and the most personal touch. Genuine lyrical elements which entrance and charm the reader adorn the narrative. The pages of this story blaze with poetry. Whatever touches the magic pen of Litsa Psarafi, after it burns in the furnace of her heart and mind, becomes imbued with a lyrical prose of decency and humanity.

"Ecati's smile" has: inspiration, talent, the light from our Aegean, power, knowledge, gallantry and decorum. The pages of the story have the aroma of the Greece of yesteryear, of today, of forever. The interweaving of the fates of the heroines - Theano, Theoniki, Areti and Teti - as well as some others who abide by them, brings forth a poignant song, at times of protest and at other times of trust in life.

"Ecati's smile", by Litsa Psarafi is a story deeply human, in which the impulse of reflection interweaves with the lyricism of the most authentic, the most human and dignified erotic passion.

Ioannis G. Theoharis, "Proinos Logos" newspaper, February 3, 1996.

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The composition of this novel is based on a difficult but very effective technique....Through the power of the description, the reader slips into time and experiences what is being read...

With this work, Litsa Psarafti has managed to condense the important historical phases Samos has experienced, bring into focus the desires, ambitions, and trials of simple people and still manage to refer to all the issues which the young are concerned about today...And indeed she has added another award to those she has already been distinguished with.

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Elpida Katsikoyanis, "Apoplous" magazine, vol. No 17,1997.