



## Magdalena

By Cecilia Manguerra Brainard

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Cecilia Manguerra Brainard has written an ambitious novel of forbidden love. Set against the turbulent history of East Asia in the twentieth century and by turns erotic and tragic, *Magdalena* vividly depicts three generations of strong Filipino women.

**Aimee Liu**, author of *Cloud Mountain*

I have been looking for a good story about the war. N.V.M. Gonzalez, author of *The Bread of Salt and Other Stories* (upon reading "Winning Hearts and Minds," one chapter of *Magdalena*.) With her second novel, *Magdalena*, Cecilia Brainard adds new portraits to the gallery in Philippine literature. She has always had a strong sense of place. Here, she provides an inner landscape as well. Together, these provide the coordinates for the family secrets that bind the characters as securely as bloodlines.

**Linda Ty-Casper**, author of *The Stranded Whale*

In this novel, Brainard blends a series of multiple perspectives to create a polyphony of voices that enacts Philippine society before and during the Second World War. The narrative is a nuanced vision of the workings of culture, social class, obligation and the Filipino personality.

**Rocio G. Davis**, author of *Transcultural Reinventions: Asian American and Asian Canadian Short Story Cycles*

About Brainard's first novel *When the Rainbow Goddess Wept*

-- The strengthening of the national spirit; the loss of innocence in two generations -- these themes are explored by the author, who was born in the Philippines, with persuasive conviction and stark realism.

*Publishers Weekly*

A fast-paced, sensitively written first novel about the psychological damage war wreaks, seen through the eyes of an intelligent, resilient young girl . . . Brainard's appealing characters are larger-than-life people who change before our eyes, yet remain utterly convincing.

*Kirkus Review*

Stories of war are perhaps most compelling when told through the eyes of

children, whose innocence is always so tragically incongruous to the adult madness that rages around them.

*Los Angeles Times*

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## Magdalena By Cecilia Manguerra Brainard Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

Cecilia's Diary tells all. -- *Felice Prudente Sta. Maria*

I have been looking for a good story about the war - (upon reading the chapter "Winning Hearts and Minds."  
-- *N.V.M. Gonzalez*

In this novel, Brainard blends a series of multiple perspectives to create a polyphony of voices that enacts Philippine society. -- *Rocio G. Davis (author of Transcultural Reinventions)*

Set 20th century East Asia and by turns erotic and tragic, MAGDALENA vividly depicts three generations of strong Filipino women. -- *Aimee Liu, President of PEN USA West (author of Cloud Mountain)*

With her second novel, Magdalena, Cecilia Brainard adds new portraits to the gallery in Philippine literature.  
-- *Linda Ty Casper (author The Stranded Whale)*

#### From the Publisher

That life can be lived richly and generously is a message in CECILIA'S DIARY that teens everywhere need to hear, as they also need to realize from reading this book how keeping a diary can add a dynamic dimension to the ordinary events of daily life.

#### From the Author

My diary begins in 1962, three years after my father's death, three years after paradise ended. In 1962, I was in Manila with my mother and sister. I attended high school at St. Theresa's College, San Marcelino. School and religion provided stability to my life that was dominated by a high-strung mother.

I disliked Manila for its largeness, dirtiness, and for the lifestyle we now had that was different from the quiet, elegant, and loving one in Cebu. And yet, it was in Manila where my life's goals started to take shape. Will I be a nun? Will I get married? And then an idea had entered my head that I wanted to be an engineer, perhaps because my father had been one. But despite my verbal profession of wanting to follow my father's footsteps, I started writing and reading. It was that personal loneliness, sadness, and insecurity that made me pick up a black folder, the kind used in school, and imitating Anne Frank, start:

"That you may help me know myself better, and I might learn to confide all in a friend, to provide the future a record."

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

##### **Latrice Miller:**

In other case, little folks like to read book Magdalena. You can choose the best book if you'd prefer reading a book. Providing we know about how is important any book Magdalena. You can add know-how and of course you can around the world by the book. Absolutely right, due to the fact from book you can realize everything! From your country right up until foreign or abroad you will find yourself known. About simple factor until wonderful thing you may know that. In this era, we are able to open a book or perhaps searching

by internet unit. It is called e-book. You can utilize it when you feel bored to go to the library. Let's go through.

**Cheryl Stone:**

The reason why? Because this Magdalena is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap it but latter it will jolt you with the secret this inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who also write the book in such remarkable way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book have such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking means. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I have been you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

**Mae Mosley:**

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book particularly book entitled Magdalena your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a publication then become one web form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get previous to. The Magdalena giving you a different experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful data for your better life in this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

**Catherine Taylor:**

Reading a book being new life style in this year; every people loves to examine a book. When you examine a book you can get a wide range of benefit. When you read ebooks, you can improve your knowledge, because book has a lot of information onto it. The information that you will get depend on what forms of book that you have read. If you would like get information about your research, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself you can read a fiction books, these us novel, comics, as well as soon. The Magdalena provide you with a new experience in studying a book.

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