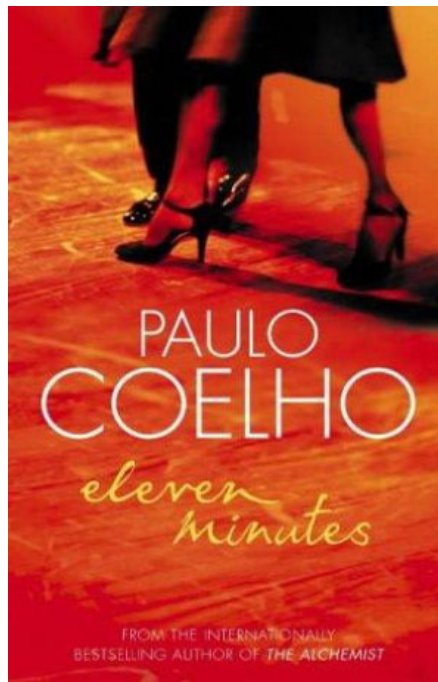




## Eleven Minutes

*Paulo Coelho , Margaret Jull Costa (Translator)*

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# Eleven Minutes

*Paulo Coelho , Margaret Jull Costa (Translator)*

**Eleven Minutes** Paulo Coelho , Margaret Jull Costa (Translator)

*Eleven Minutes* is the story of Maria, a young girl from a Brazilian village, whose first innocent brushes with love leave her heartbroken. At a tender age, she becomes convinced that she will never find true love, instead believing that “love is a terrible thing that will make you suffer. . . .” A chance meeting in Rio takes her to Geneva, where she dreams of finding fame and fortune.

Maria’s despairing view of love is put to the test when she meets a handsome young painter. In this odyssey of self-discovery, Maria has to choose between pursuing a path of darkness—sexual pleasure for its own sake—or risking everything to find her own “inner light” and the possibility of sacred sex, sex in the context of love.

## Eleven Minutes Details

Date : Published 2003 by HarperOne

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Author : Paulo Coelho , Margaret Jull Costa (Translator)

Format : Paperback 273 pages

Genre : Fiction, Romance, Novels, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review Eleven Minutes for online ebook

### Nobody says

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## Odai Al-Saeed says

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## Mai says

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## Alaa hussien says

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***“Life always waits for some crisis to occur before revealing itself at its most brilliant.”***

## Ria says

In comparison to my experiences with his other pieces. I can confidently say that this Paulo Coelho work tests the reader in a unique and dangerous way.

Each of his novels teach valuable lessons for adults through the interesting happenings of his protagonists. This story does the same. However the lesson taught borders on relationship counseling and sexual education. It was just as compelling and effective as it was uncomfortable. Uncomfortable in the sense that the information being learned as one reads each chapter is not theirs to have. He accomplishes this through the less than innovative approach of journal or diary entries, but envertheless, it is striking how moving it is to read the sexual and romantic discoveries of a conventional young lady.

A book that is difficult to put down. A must-read for many, but especially those who have not yet discovereddy what makes them tick, oo and ahhh. Again, an inspiration!

## Shwan Majeed says

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A very bold novel by the writer Paulo Coelho and very wonderful in all respects, what wrote Paulo Coelho in this novel shocked me not something bad but the amount of wonderful creativity that I found in this novel is legendary and I never expected, and above all of this novel is not suitable for those who are less than 18 years old or do not like novels and books containing sexual abuse stories but you will regret very much because your reading of this novel will discover something inside you was not in mind.

This novel introduces you to a world where you know only the superficial part of it and deepen every person you imagine as you want and of course badly, but after reading this novel and the depth that will reach it you will be surprised with a lot of things especially if you did not learn or did not try to delve into these subjects

and whatever the reasons, but you should know everything, no matter how you reach it because you will not learn without asking or discovering.

The beautiful in this novel to Paulo Coelho is before writing this novel was not in his mind to write about it but the circumstances took him to this way and of course for his luck and we noticed that he discovered this thing and brought us this wonderful novel, the things that brought this novel this creativity is deepening Paulo Coelho in the life of prostitutes and sit with them and take samples of their lives and apply in this novel and show the humanitarian aspect to them, no matter how they are human beings, but the way of life and circumstances forced them to work or there are willing to do this work and this is of course for their personal freedom.

Your reading for this novel will reveal a lot of things and your input to the stories and across too many and make you sympathize with the reality of the heroine of the novel and have a receptive view of them despite the presence of many words and sexual dialogues in the novel, but will love her very, and then the name of the novel will be discovered in an exciting way ..

## ?. ???? says

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## Muhammad Galal says

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Sorry. Eleven minutes review over.

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## Shaimaa Rady says

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## Bookshop says

I was burnt by his book titled "Veronica decides to die". When I flipped through his bestseller, "The Alchemist", I was not too impressed either. I thought he was too "Celestine Prophecy". When I asked people what "The Alchemist" was all about, they always said it was about searching for something. But they could never be able to explain what that something was and they quickly moved on to rave about how inspirational the book was. How you can say searching for something you don't even know inspirational is beyond me. I'm too dumb for stuffs like that.

Anyway, I picked up this book in Freiburg's train station while waiting for our train to Titisee. I remembered wrongly that this was the book that Cindy raved about. Having read her review, I wanted to give Paulo Coelho a second chance.

The book is about Maria, a young Brazilian girl who comes from a poor family, dreams of fairy tales and ends up as a prostitute in Geneva. Apparently, this is based on a true story. That's the first mistake. The idea is not unique but I suppose variations can be spun into interesting stories. However, he fails to marry his philosophical style with this true story with a fixed ending, which, to do it successfully, I'm sure must be extremely difficult.

The first few chapters outlining the life of little Maria are engaging enough. I couldn't put the book down at this stage. Once she gets to Switzerland, the lecturing, dreamy, philosophical style that I dislike starts. Maria is no ordinary prostitute. She is beautiful as well as smart (Yawn). She first attempts to justify her reasons or anybody's reasons to be a prostitute. Before that is concluded, she moves on to find a rich and young and handsome painter who worships her (Snore). At the same time, she is tempted into masochism by a rich (again) and famous music producer who is disappointed by his wife's infidelity. She must choose between these two! That is essentially the story. In between the story about Maria, the author inserts graphic descriptions of various sexual acts, sex education, which sometimes read like a newspaper's sex column

(ejaculation is not the same as sex, please!), and historical information (the history of prostitution complete with years marking civilization. Pah!).

I also note a few exaggerations in this book. One I cannot stand is this. He describes that the loneliest people are the top executives, commanding lots of money and respect and having great families, when asked to change jobs by head hunters. The reasons? Because this executive cannot talk to his colleagues as they wouldn't let them go (This is misleading. It highly depends on situation) and he can't talk to his family because the wife, who knows nothing about taking risk, wouldn't let him. HELLO?? Despite his attempt to be sophisticated and deep, this is very shallow indeed.

I wrote the review when I was about 3/4 into the story. Toward the end, her struggle between staying in Geneva or going back to Brazil is slow and painfully dotted with unnecessary pretentious and meaningless analysis of love, sex, women, men, the universe, and the rubbish. After reading the ending, I was further disappointed and decided to downgrade the rating by one more star.

The story can be interesting but it has to be done strictly as a biography, as a story-telling.

This book sorts of seals my dislike of his writings. I dislike the content, I dislike the style. I dislike his empty philosophies. I don't know what to learn from his books. Maybe that's because I don't care to interpret. But shouldn't good writings do not require people to interpret their messages but ponder on the contents? Having said that, try and read it especially if you are a fan. You may beg to differ.

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## Leajk says

So while living in Switzerland, I had this book recommended, nay practically forced upon me by a male acquaintance (the book was put into my hands at a party and he told me that I should borrow it). Not having read anything by Coelho previously, though with a vague remembrance of my high school teacher violently hating the guy, I set about politely reading it.

Imagine my surprise when I found out that the book was about an immigrant sex worker in Switzerland. It made me more than a little uncomfortable, not because I have anything against sex workers, but because I was also an immigrant living in Switzerland and I was in fact looking for a new job at the moment, and this guy knew that, and well, it wasn't really what I had in mind.

I'm guessing (or hoping) that my friend's intrigue was with Coelho's general pseudo-philosophy and that's why he recommended it. I'm hoping that he wasn't really fascinated and wanting to discuss the plot. The lovely plot of how Maria, the sex worker, has to choose between two of her millionaire clients; one who's a sadistic bad boy and one who is more into delayed sexual gratification (or even abstinence if I remember correctly) but kind of complicated and hard to get close.

The reason for posting this review now, besides being reminded of it while I was reviewing a streak of horrible books, is that I suddenly realised that there was actually already a BDSM-story from a very popular author way before Fifty Shades of Grey. Or rather, from what I've read about Fifty Shades, it's about BDSM only while suggesting that anyone who's into it is really a depraved lunatic.

In the end of this book (spoiler!) Maria denounces her previous wicked BDSM-ways and chooses the right man! Yay! (Urgh.) I'm actually thinking about writing an analysis on the whole phenomenon of writing detailed descriptions about BDSM, while at the same time denouncing it. It is really about trying to have the cake and eating it at the same time.

I might include Cosmopolis by Don DeLillo in that analysis as well after reading a bit about it and seeing the following quote from that book :

"My mood shifts and bends. But when I'm alive and heightened, I'm super-acute. Do you know what I see when I look at you? I see a woman who wants to live shamelessly in her body. Tell me this is not the truth. You want to follow your body into idleness and fleshiness. That's why you have to run, to escape the drift of your basic nature. ...What do I see? Something lazy, sexy and insatiable."

They "[reach] completion more or less together, touching neither each other nor themselves."

First of all the writing style remind me of the previous two authors. But also: what is it with these people (Coelho, James and DeLillo) and writing about young millionaires with a 'depraved' badly written sex lives? Seriously, why are people buying into this? Is this the ultimate wish fulfillment for both genders: the men can imagine they are rich young millionaires having sex with willing sex dolls and the women that they get the bad boy with an unlimited credit card? I really think better of people in general, but of course with the way mainstream media looks, these types of fantasies are only the logical conclusion of more subtle versions on the same theme.

One last thing. The most enjoyable experience when reviewing this book came when reading the five star reviews of it and read this:

"How can he articulate so many nuggets of wisdom, often through characters the writing of which expresses the irony and profundity of their insights, and yet packaged in stories with such cliché outcomes?!?"

If even your biggest fans think your writing is cliché, maybe you might want to reconsider your writing style.

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## Ahmad Sharabiani says

Onze minutos = Eleven Minutes = Elf minuten, Paulo Coelho

Eleven Minutes (Portuguese: Onze Minutos) is a 2003 novel by Brazilian novelist Paulo Coelho that recounts the experiences of a young Brazilian prostitute and her journey to self-realisation through sexual experience.

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## Huda Yahya says

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## Felicia says

I didn't find this nearly as good as *The Alchemist*. I do not know if Coelho was trying to really get in the mindset of a woman by over-analyzing sex, but I felt a real woman would be less philosophical and more emotional about her experiences. It seemed to me that she was detached from herself and no matter what shocking things would come her way, she would still never be phased by it and I just felt it was too dehumanized. Philosophical rampages on love and being the mother and friend to her clients turned me off entirely to this book. Don't get me wrong, Coelho is an eloquent and gifted writer, I just did not find this book as enjoyable as his other works.

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## Lesley says

I'm giving this book five stars because I definitely thought it was amazing. BUT ... like every other Coelho book I've read, it let me down in the end.

How can he articulate so many nuggets of wisdom, often through characters the writing of which expresses the irony and profundity of their insights, and yet packaged in stories with such cliché outcomes?!?! So many of his books explore the ephemerality of love, the moment, the permanence of change, the fleetingness of forever... and yet, his characters always seem to end up living "happily ever after."

This one was about my favorite topic(s): sex, pain and suffering, pleasure, enthrallment, identity; the stories we tell ourselves about ourselves ("trust me, I'm telling you stories"), the rationalization of emotion and spiritualization of the mundane--Hey: the mystery of life.

Maria--a prostitute--is exposed to an evening of sado-masochistic role play with a "special client" and finds freedom from herself and her desires during orgasm, tied up and whipped. Then another lover (another "special client") convinces her to not to go down that path, that freedom can be found testing the limits of desire, not the limits of pain. They have their own little role play--their relationship is based as much on fantasy as the other. After a night of bliss, she leaves him to go back to Brazil, cherishing the memory that can be spoiled by "real life."

But, then he intercepts her in Paris with roses (it was their destiny! ick) and they live happily ever after.

So, to sum up (as E just pointed out): The dirty parts I liked. The ending, not so much.

That's my review. Happy reading.

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