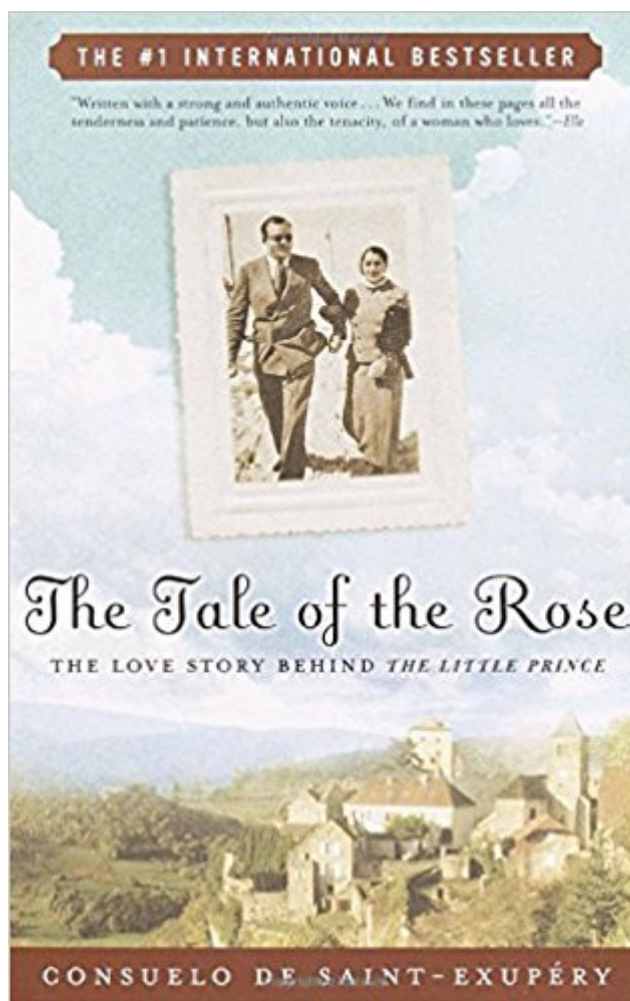


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The Tale Of The Rose: The Love Story Behind The Little Prince



Synopsis

Consuelo and Antoine de Saint-Exupéry met in Buenos Aires in 1930—she a seductive young widow, he a brave pioneer of early aviation, decorated for his acts of heroism in the deserts of North Africa. He was large in his passions, a fierce loner with a childlike appetite for danger. She was frail and voluble, exotic and capricious. Within hours of their first encounter, he knew he would have her as his wife. Their love affair and marriage would take them from Buenos Aires to Paris to Casablanca to New York. It would take them through periods of betrayal and infidelity, pain and intense passion, devastating abandonment and tender, poetic love. *The Tale of the Rose* is the story of a man of extravagant dreams and of the woman who was his muse, the inspiration for the Little Prince—his beloved rose—“unique in all the world”—whom he could not live with and could not live without.

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Customer Reviews

Reading his wife's lyrical yet frank memoir of their turbulent marriage, it's easy to see why Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (1900-1944) depicted her as the prince's beloved, difficult Rose in his most famous book, *The Little Prince*. The French writer's feelings for his Salvadoran wife were passionate from the moment they met in Buenos Aires. On that very first day in 1930, he cajoled her aboard his airplane, even though she was afraid of flying, and extorted a kiss by cutting the engine and threatening to drown them both in the waters below. He proposed marriage just a few days later, and the revolution roiling Argentina was hardly more unsettling for Consuelo than the emotions

aroused by her swashbuckling aviator-author. "For you I am nothing but a dream," she explains. "But I want you to know I am not an object or a doll; I don't change faces on command." Blending the everyday with the abstract in a style reminiscent of *The Little Prince's* elliptical prose, Consuelo limns a man who loved her yet couldn't resist the adulation of other women or sit still long enough to build a life together. "You're the kind of man who is constantly in need of struggle, conquest," she tells him. "Leave, then. Leave." So off he went, on flights that often ended in crashes while she waited anxiously (but seldom patiently)--until he vanished for good during a wartime reconnaissance mission in 1944. Written a year later but unpublished until 2000, when it became a bestseller in France, Consuelo's portrait reveals a Saint-Exupéry far more human than the tragic, mythical hero constructed by his worshipful countrymen. --Wendy Smith --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Twice widowed and not yet 30, Consuelo Suncin married the dashing young aviator Comte Antoine de Saint-Exupéry in 1931. As depicted in this posthumous memoir (written in 1945, it lay undiscovered until the 1990s), they were an impossible couple: childlike and terminally irresponsible, Saint-Ex (as his friends called him) broke engagements without a word to disappear for months. Consuelo sometimes naive, often egotistical, and always temperamental frequently exploded in nervous fits (one acquaintance described her as "Surrealism made flesh"). From Buenos Aires to Casablanca, Paris and New York, they failed to establish a home for themselves; Saint-Ex repeatedly fled the constraints of marriage, only to find he could not write without his wife's support and inspiration. She, for her part, loved him too much to leave him for good. Friends described Consuelo as a charming storyteller, always ready with a vivid observation ("She had the face of an umbrella" is her stab at a suspected rival). At its most heartrending, this book tells the story of a proud, charismatic woman who lived only for her husband, following him from continent to continent as he deceived and neglected her, then pleaded for her return when he began writing again. In 1943 he wrote *The Little Prince*, immortalizing Consuelo as the Prince's beloved Rose, too proud and thorny to admit her pain at his departure. A year later, the aviator disappeared over the Atlantic. For his many devotees, this memoir will offer an intimate glimpse of the strange and passionate life behind his mysterious work. (July 3) Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This is a very detailed memoir written by the "rose" in question, Saint-Exupéry's wife, Consuelo. The book is supposed to be a love story, but it reads more like a cautionary tale. Seriously, why the author and her husband didn't kill one another is beyond me. They spend most of the time having

sex with each other, having sex with other people, spending money they don't have, and lying to one another. I know some people find this kind of hopeless (mentally abusive) longing to be romantic, but I found it ridiculous. While I don't doubt they had (according to Consuelo) a fiery sexual attraction, they should most certainly have NOT gotten married.

I really wanted to like this book. I did not find fault with Consuelo de Saint-Exupéry's prose. She is a credible writer, in her own right. What I found was the memoir of an entirely dysfunctional relationship, with neither party being particularly like able. This is a tale of two very large egos, who couldn't live with or without each other. By the end of the book, I was pretty tired of both of them. I was not particularly shocked at St-Ex's extramarital affairs, since he was a celebrity. The name dropping would have been better if she had journaled more about the people they ran around with, but her story was pretty ego-centric. It is no wonder that *The Little Prince* continues to be dissected and analyzed in high school French classes, when the author himself is such an enigma.

What an impossible marital relationship! Both terribly selfish, Rose not wanting to take any responsibility for herself even during war separations. Sure shows up in *The Little Prince*! Her view was pretty well illustrated in her own words.

prompt delivery; item as described.

I love historical biographies and really enjoyed this one. Had not heard of these people until I read the names in another book referencing them. I like to follow up with names I read in books by reading other books of the people mentioned as I did here. Interesting read.

Having read all of Saint Exupéry's books, this was the perfect finish to the journey. Engrossing, enlightening and very sad for me, as I realized that my childhood hero that in part inspired me to become a pilot, had feet of clay.

I am giving this book, along with "The Little Prince" to my son for next Christmas. The two books sort of complete the picture of the famous masterpiece.

This is the essential companion for *The Little Prince*.

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