



STOCKCERO TEACHING KIT (094)

TEXT: *La Lozana Andaluza*

AUTHOR: Francisco Delicado

EDITOR: Tatiana Bubnova

PART 1: CONTEXT & CRITICAL ANALYSIS

(Based on the Introduction by Tatiana Bubnova)

1. A UNIQUE AND UNCLASSIFIABLE GENRE:

"Portrait" as Genre:

The work calls itself a "Retrato" (Portrait), a term Delicado uses innovatively to mean both a representation of a person and a "reprehension" (critique) or "withdrawal" (retraerse). It defies standard classifications, sitting somewhere between the "celestinesca" tradition and a precursor to the picaresque.

Dialogue and Orality:

Written almost entirely in dialogue, the text creates a vivid illusion of immediate orality, capturing the street slang, multilingual babble (Spanish, Italian, Catalan, Latin), and proverbs of Renaissance Rome's lower classes.

Metafiction:

The inclusion of the "Auctor" as a character within the narrative, interacting with Lozana and commenting on the writing process, is a surprisingly modern, metafictional device that predates *Don Quijote*.

2. LOZANA: SURVIVAL AND THE BODY:

The Anti-Heroine:

Lozana is a displaced Andalusian woman who survives in Rome through her wits and body. She is a prostitute, procuress, and healer, navigating a corrupt society with agency and "freedom" ("ser libre y no sujeta a ninguno").

Grotesque Realism:

Following Bakhtin, the novel exhibits "grotesque realism," focusing on the bodily lower stratum—sex, food, disease (syphilis)—with humor and abundance, inverting serious hierarchies.

Syphilis as Metaphor:

The disease (morbo gálico), which the author himself suffered from, permeates the text. It marks Lozana physically but also serves as a metaphor for the corruption of Rome ("Roma" = "roma," defective/noseless).

3. HISTORICAL CONTEXT: ROME BEFORE THE SACK:

A Portrait of Rome:

The novel offers a sociological slice of Rome during the papacy of Clement VII, specifically the Spanish and Jewish quarters, just before the catastrophic Sack of Rome by Imperial troops in 1527.

Apocalyptic Undertone:



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While humorous and bawdy, the text contains an undercurrent of impending doom. The corruption of the clergy and the city's moral decay are presented as presages to the divine punishment that the Sack represented for many contemporaries.

PART 2: TOPICS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

Genre Ambiguity:

Discuss the difficulty of classifying *La Lozana Andaluza*. How does it relate to *La Celestina*? In what ways does it anticipate the picaresque novel (e.g., *Lazarillo de Tormes*)?

The Role of the Author:

Analyze the function of the "Auctor" character. How does his presence affect the realism of the text and the reader's relationship with the characters?

Language and Society:

Examine the use of language in the novel. How does the multilingual, proverb-rich dialogue reflect the social reality of Renaissance Rome? What does it say about the author's attitude towards "correct" language?

Gender and Agency:

Is Lozana a victim or an empowered agent? Discuss her philosophy of freedom and her ability to manipulate her environment despite her marginalized status.

The Body and Disease:

Explore the representation of the body, sexuality, and syphilis. How does Delicado use "grotesque realism" to critique society or simply to depict life?

Historical Documentation:

How does the novel serve as a historical document of the Spanish community in Rome and the atmosphere preceding the Sack of Rome?

PART 3: SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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PART 4: QUIZ BANK (Multiple Choice)

1. Who is the author of *La Lozana Andaluza*?

- A) Fernando de Rojas
- B) Francisco Delicado
- C) Lazarillo de Tormes
- D) Mateo Alemán

Correct Answer: B

2. In which city does the majority of the novel's action take place?

- A) Seville
- B) Madrid
- C) Rome
- D) Venice

Correct Answer: C

3. What historical event looms over the end of the narrative?

- A) The discovery of America
- B) The expulsion of the Jews from Spain
- C) The Sack of Rome (1527)
- D) The Council of Trent

Correct Answer: C

4. What narrative device makes the novel surprisingly modern?

- A) The use of stream of consciousness
- B) The inclusion of the Author as a character in the story
- C) A non-linear timeline
- D) Multiple unreliable narrators

Correct Answer: B

5. What disease is a recurring theme and metaphor in the novel?

- A) The Plague (Black Death)
- B) Leprosy
- C) Syphilis (Morbo gálico)
- D) Smallpox

Correct Answer: C

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