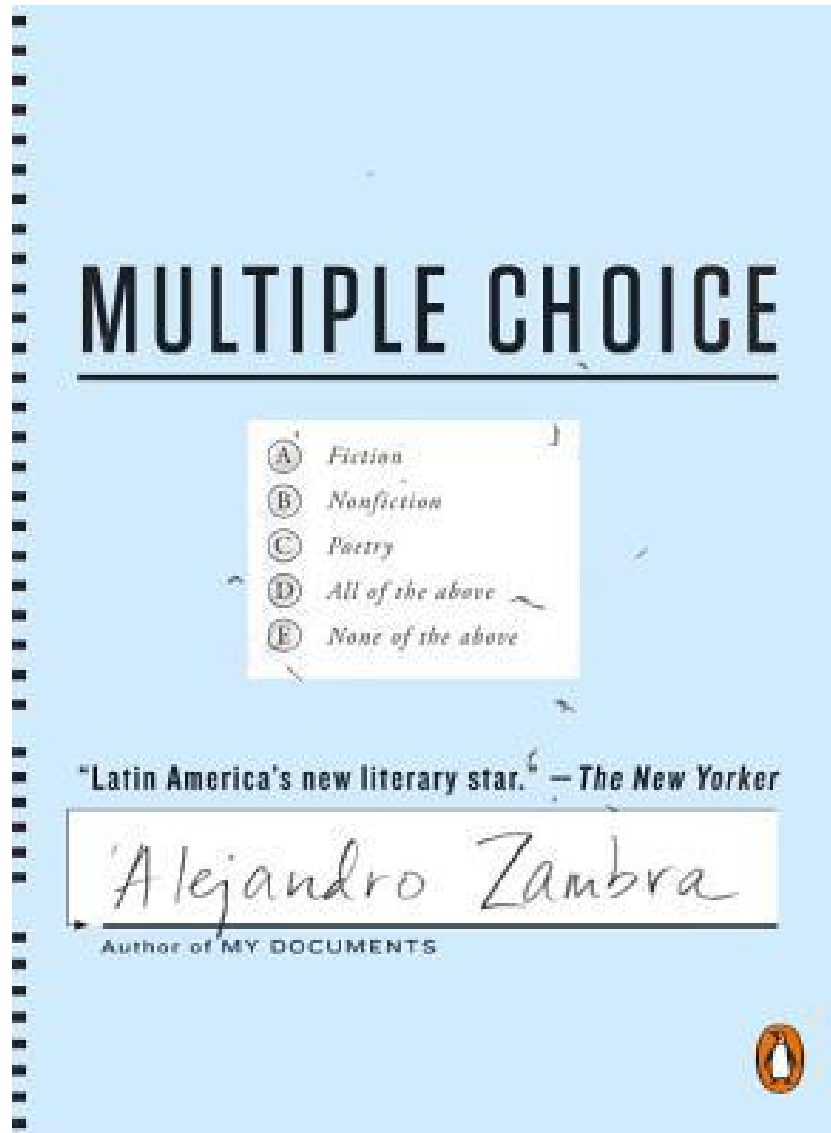

Multiple Choice Book PDF Download



By:
Alejandro Zambra

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What people Say:

Elyse

Did you have 'Test Anxiety' when you were in school?

A Yes

B No

C Sometimes

D Always

This teeny-weeny book could take an hour to read --- or weeks. Your choice. You might feel a little intimidated by this tiny pale blue fiction-nonfiction-poetry-all of the of the above-none of the above, book, by Chilean author Alejandro Zamora.

Or....

You might settle in -and have an awesome and amazing time. Your choice.

If you hated taking multiple-choice tests in school, you have a chance to experience taking

Did you have 'Test Anxiety' when you were in school?

Chelsea Humphrey

Date Read: 06/18/16

Pub Date: 07/19/16

5 STARS

Date Read: 06/18/16

Pub Date: 07/19/16

5 STARS

Itâ€™s books like this that make me wonder if Iâ€™m too carefree with my 5 STAR reviews. This

itty bitty book packed a wollop; my copy came in at 101 pages and, unlike some non-fiction (namely poetry) that usually takes me longer to get through, I finished in about an hour. I reread most of it the following day because I wanted to soak in some of the sections a bit longer before reviewing.

How do I even review a book like this? It was definitely genre bending; I honestly couldn't pinpoint exactly which sections were non-fiction and which were made up officially, but I felt I had a general idea. The format was written in the style of the Chilean Academic Aptitude Test which made it very interactive. I thoroughly enjoyed following all the directions and trying different answers and orders to come up with different paragraphs. You have some really silly sections that seem insane; the directions state to pick the answer below of which number(s) do not belong with the rest:

Then you had sections that were more deep (I didn't want to pick the best sections because I want YOU to read this book for yourself!); for the following you were instructed to place the options in what you felt the best sentence arrangement was:

There were also lots of sections involving memories and stories about life in Chile during Pinochet's regime, and I think these sections affected me the most. It made me grateful to live in the country that I do and to have the freedoms I have. Even if you aren't the type to typically read Non-Fiction or Poetry, I would highly recommend this little loaf of history.

Fabian

A magnificent collision between Dadaism and literature. A radical experiment that depicts a solemn reality behind much artifice and minutiae. It is risky. And one great find for me at the Denver Public Lib.!

Lee

My first Zambra, other than

I translated last year. Quick, clever, painless, joyful, melancholic, unpredictable, clear, cool, refreshing, effervescent -- and therefore like refrigerated lemon-lime seltzer, I guess. At worst felt like a little collection of stories padded by a great formal gimmick, one that I feel like I've seen before (maybe in

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) but I can't remember; at best felt like a collection of stories and suggestions worth rereading to re-encounter the initial questions after the experience of the fuller stories toward the end. Sort of circles around or suggests the times and tribulations of the testmaker, twice divorced, with kids from three marriages, daddy issues of his own, who grew up under the dictator Pinochet, and has a sense of humor and a love for music. Loved the question that was something like "for the story you've just read, which is the worst title, guaranteed to reach the widest possible audience?" The numbers must've been fun to translate, but also all the one-word weighted answer choices, more like poetry than prose. Probably ultimately forgettable considering amount of time spent with it but enjoyable to read over the course of an hour or so in a day and when someone likes this review in a few years I'll re-read this little impression and remember. My first Zambra, but definitely not my last.

Trish

This work is all kinds of novel. Chilean novelist Zambra really puts us through our paces by making

us actually participate in the process of his fiction. He gives us choices on how to finish his sentences. He starts simply enough, asking us to decide which word has no relation to the words given. The structure of the book copies the Verbal section of the Chilean Academic Aptitude Test, required of all applicants to university in Chile. Our minds race with the possibilities heâ€™s given us, and we

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Next comes â€œSentence Order,â€• and the test-maker is acting like a disaffected teenager himself, his sentences starting out short and perhaps only a little sarcastic, progressing to longer sentences that sound bitter and angry, to his last question featuring a page of sentences we are meant to order, including words like â€œpain,â€• and â€œtumorâ€• and â€œgoing from the general to the specific,â€• and mentioning General Pinochet for the first time.

The section marked â€œSentence Completionâ€• is pretty easy because the test-maker does not give us as many choices as he might have. He seems almost to be steering us. We canâ€™t just think up answersâ€!he is strong-arming us to conclusions as a result of his sentences. We chafe a little under his direction.

In the penultimate section, â€œSentence Elimination,â€• we start getting the feel of the potentiality in this form. Zambia here reminds me of

called â€œThe Evils of Tobacco.â€• In that monologue, a distinguished educator who has been asked to give a speech on tobacco veers off topic into the state of his health, what he likes to eat, and how he despairs of his wife. Our test-maker in â€œSentence Eliminationâ€• starts with short sentences, though they are already evocative, and gradually starts talking about family, a hated father, government eliminations, and other soul-baring terrors. We forget which sentence to eliminate.

The final section, â€œReading Comprehension,â€• evokes Saramago. Remember in

Saramago created a government functionary who was supposed to do a boring job filing the names of all the folks who died? That bureaucrat started getting creative,

the deaths instead of just filing them away. Well, here our test-maker quite loses his detachment and begins a long confession on how he learned to cheat on tests and how it brought his cheating classmates togetherâ€!only to further disclose how his classmates lived, loved, playedâ€!You get the picture. In the final questions to test comprehension, we see that he has lost all objectivity and is telling us instead what he has learned.

Bravo, Zambra. The form fulfills its potential. Translated, by Megan McDowell.