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La lengua de las mariposas detailed plot summary

Known as Butterfly's Tongue or simply Butterfly, *La Lengua de Las Mariposas* revolves around life in Galician Spain just before the Spanish Civil War. This 1999 film, told through the eyes of a young child, depicts the events and struggles faced by families at that time. Although not one of director José Luis Cuerda's most famous films, *La Lengua de Las Mariposas* is still widely popular in Spain today, sparking ongoing discussions. Based on several short stories by Manuel Rivas, this Spanish movie received critical acclaim and won the Best Adapted Screenplay Goya Award in 2000. The film follows Moncho, a young boy, as he grows up and matures against the backdrop of the impending Civil War between Republicans and Nationalists. *Butterfly's Tongue* or *Butterfly* is a 1999 Spanish film directed by José Luis Cuerda. The movie focuses on Moncho's coming-of-age experience in Galicia during the year 1936. Moncho develops a strong bond with his teacher, Don Gregorio, who introduces him to various aspects of life. The story revolves around Moncho's ordinary experiences but is also affected by tensions related to the impending Spanish Civil War. The film is based on three short stories from Manuel Rivas' book *¿Qué me quieres, amor?* The movie received critical acclaim and won several awards, including the Goya Award for Best Adapted Screenplay. In Spanish civil war era, Father is republican but family lives in fear of nationalists discovering his political leanings, so they pretend to jeer captured republicans as they're paraded out of courthouse. Moncho, son, gets instructed by mother to yell hateful things at friend and teacher Don Gregorio, but secretly, he wants to show love through coded phrase "espiritrompa" or butterfly proboscis, a word taught to him by Don Gregorio, as truck carries captured republicans away. This scenario is based on short story "La lengua de las mariposas" by Manuel Rivas, which highlights the impact of Spanish Civil War on common people's lives. The film adaptation received several awards and explores themes of fear, loyalty, and the complexities of war through a six-year-old boy's perspective as he navigates his first days of school under the guidance of a kind teacher who becomes a mentor to him. The fact that butterflies have a tongue-shaped roll-out (un rollizo de lengua) is quite interesting, but let's focus on Don Gregorio, who's really popular among students. He has a calming presence and sparks their curiosity about details, making them want to learn more. It's worth noting that Don Gregorio supports the democratically elected government, which makes him friends with Moncho's father since they share the same political views as Republicans. On the other hand, Moncho's mother leans towards the nationalist Falange and is very religious, much like the church's stance in Spain, which has played a significant role throughout history, as explained in "La historia de España". When Don Gregorio was arrested by nationalists for speaking out against their government, Moncho's family struggled to distance themselves from Republican ideas. They even joined other villagers in insulting and throwing stones at the arrested Republicans, including Don Gregorio. The family, including Moncho, had to conform to the nationalist side, but Moncho continued to use words he learned from Don Gregorio, like "lengua de las mariposas", showing that he couldn't take their insults seriously. Throughout the short story, Moncho calls him "butterfly proboscis". The short story "La lengua de las mariposas" by Manuel Rivas is told from the perspective of six-year-old Moncho and explores themes of friendship, loyalty, political and religious beliefs, and betrayal during the Spanish Civil War. The narrative style is reminiscent of a child's report, making it seem more playful and imaginative than an adult's would. Manuel Rivas, a renowned Spanish writer, penned "La lengua de las mariposas", a title that symbolizes the intricate bond between Moncho and Don Gregorio. If Moncho's teacher is signaled by a butterfly proboscis, it implies that he remains loyal to the Republican side, much like Don Gregorio. This subtle gesture serves as a secret language or code word between them, reflecting the complexities of their relationship. Manuel Rivas, born on October 24, 1957, in A Coruña, Galicia, is a celebrated author who has navigated various roles - from journalist to novelist. His early life, marked by his father's humble profession as a bricklayer and his mother's sale of milk, belied his academic prowess, which earned him acceptance into the University of Madrid. Rivas' literary career spans novels and short story collections, with "La lengua de las mariposas" featured in the 1995 anthology "What do you want from me, love?" alongside other notable works like "The Carpenter's Pencil" (1998) and "Alles ist Stille" (2010). His contributions to Spanish literature earned him a Doctor Honoris Causa Award from his hometown university in 2011.