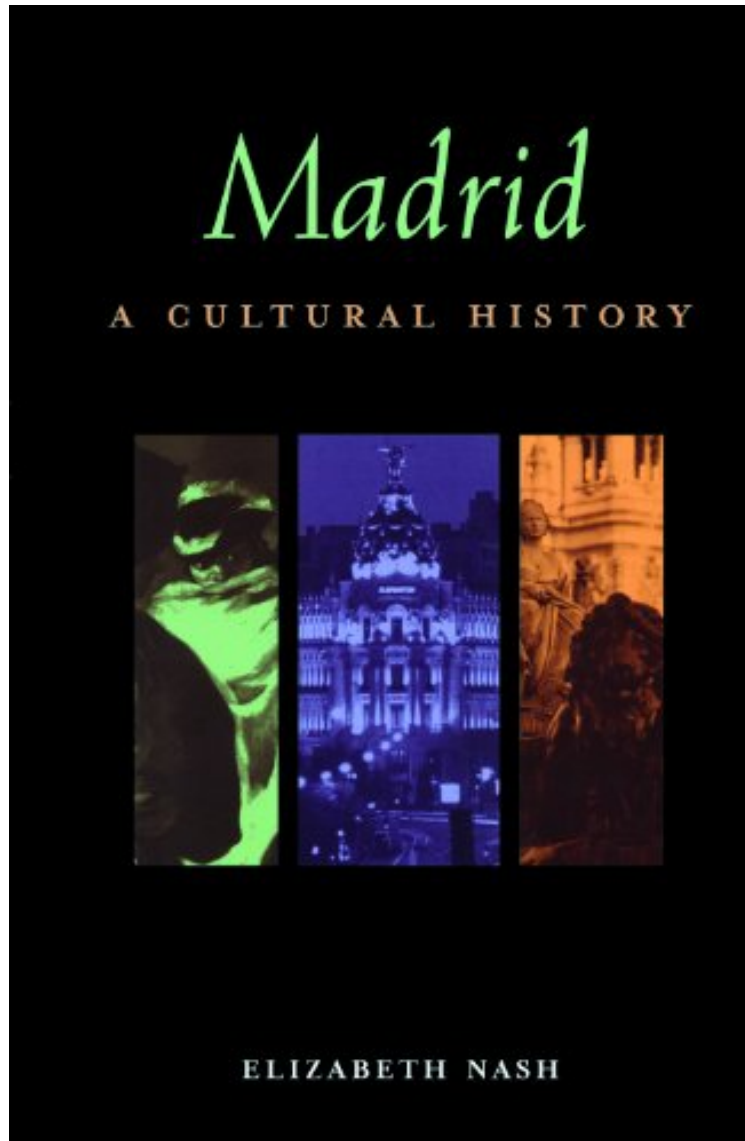


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Madrid: A Cultural and Literary Companion (Cities of the Imagination)

Elizabeth Nash

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Elizabeth Nash : Madrid: A Cultural and Literary Companion (Cities of the Imagination) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Madrid: A Cultural and Literary Companion (Cities of the Imagination):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Companion On A Recent VisitBy R. J. MarsellaI found

this book to be an excellent way to get more understanding of the various areas of Madrid while I was there. This is not a guidebook in the typical sense. It has no maps or recommendations on where to eat and stay. It is so much more than that. Organized around various landmarks and areas of the city such as Plaza Mayor, Puerta Del Sol, and Gran Vía; every section provides historical and cultural background that is informative and entertaining. It is guaranteed to enhance a visitor's understanding of the background and context of what is being seen. Interestingly I read the book before I ever set foot in Madrid and didn't truly appreciate it until I re-read it while there. I put the standard guidebooks away and enjoyed having Elizabeth Nash as my guide to this fascinating city. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. *Madrid: A Cultural and Literary Companion* By Carolyn Carr This is a well-written book about the history and culture of Madrid. I gained a better understanding of the culture of Madrid and how the Madrilenos live and think. For example, the lifestyle described centering around the cafes and the tertulias ("the gathering of people who meet regularly to converse or amuse themselves") enables you to visualize life in Madrid during the 1880's. The book is worth reading and instills a desire to learn about Spain's history and culture. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Wonderful book on Madrid* By Mary B Mrs. Nash has a wonderful feel for Madrid and it's people. A must read if you plan on traveling there and want to know the history of the city.

Planted by royal whim in a harsh, sun-drenched tableland, Madrid flaunts its distinctive Spanish identity as the most vibrant of Europe's capitals. An imperial court, remote from external influences, produced durable curiosities like the siesta, the paseo and a joyously hectic nightlife. A city where decorative display and lurching are often rated above industry and money-making, Madrid's exuberant style nonetheless flourishes in the modern world. Elizabeth Nash explores the chaotic jumble of a city built by in-comers eager to serve - or use - a court by turns austere and ostentatious. In squares, parks, streets and monuments old and new, she tracks down aristocrats and artisans, servants and chancers who bred a unique urban culture combining deference and insolence, conformity and flair. The city of artists and writers: Velazquez and Goya, realism, the erotic and the macabre; Cervantes, Cela and Hemingway, the traditions of satire, the picaresque hero and the novel of war. The city of power politics: The heart of the Spanish Empire; the scars of civil war and dictatorship; democracy and the movida of hedonistic excess and liberation, celebrated by Oscar-winning film-maker Pedro Almodovar. The city of passions: The intellectual debates of cafe society; fiestas sacred and profane; the cult of bullfighting and the capital's love affair with soccer.

"Elizabeth Nash, a long-term resident of the Spanish capital, has mixed the obvious tourist attractions with some unexpected pleasures...This is a book to read before you go and then take with you." - Sunday Times; "...as good on Goya as it is on Real Madrid." - The Times Higher Education Supplement About the Author Elizabeth Nash has lived for more than five years in Madrid, where she is correspondent for London's The Independent newspaper.