



El ruido de las cosas al caer (The Sound of Things Falling) (Spanish Edition)

Juan Gabriel Vásquez

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La exótica fuga y posterior caza de un hipopótamo, último vestigio del imposible zoológico con el que Pablo Escobar exhibía su poder, es la chispa que arranca los mecanismos de la memoria de Antonio Yammara, protagonista y narrador de *El ruido de las cosas al caer*, un negro balance de una época de terror y violencia, en una Bogotá descrita como un territorio literario lleno de significaciones.

En 1995, Antonio conoce al intrigante Ricardo Laverde, quien ha pasado veinte años en la cárcel. Laverde, de quien se sabe que fue piloto, forma parte de la parroquia de unos billares donde Yammara, joven profesor universitario de Derecho, consume el ocio de su última juventud. Entre los dos se fraguará una estrecha amistad, y Antonio, que pasa por la vida desdibujado por la duda, creará ver en la experiencia torturada de su amigo un aviso.

Antonio intentará comprender a la generación de Laverde (la de sus padres, en definitiva, con sus historias de amor), para valorar el grado de inocencia y de complicidad que les corresponde en la creación de un clima social dominado por la corrupción, el caos y la violencia. El filtro de la memoria permite realizar un recorrido palpitante por la historia reciente de Colombia, recuperando a personajes atractivos y complejos.

ENGLISH DESCRIPTION

The exotic escape and subsequent capture of a hippopotamus—the final remnant of the incongruous zoo Pablo Escobar used to flaunt his power—is the spark that activates the mechanisms of Antonio Yammara’s memory, protagonist and narrator of *El ruido de las cosas al caer*—a dark balance from a time of terror and violence, set in a Bogota painted as a region full of literary significance.

In 1995, Antonio meets the intriguing Ricardo Laverde, a man who has served a 20-year sentence. Laverde, an acknowledged pilot, is part of the group that gathers at the pool hall where Yammara, a young university Law professor, burns what is left of his youth. The two men become fast friends, to the point where Antonio, whose life has always been full of doubts, affirms that a warning hides within his friend’s tortuous experience.

Antonio will try to understand Laverde’s generation (which is also his parent’s, with all its love stories), to evaluate their share of innocence and complicity in the creation of a society dominated by corruption, chaos and violence. Yammara’s memory takes us on a vibrant journey through Colombia’s recent history, bringing back attractive and complex characters.

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