

Puig's 'kiss of the
spider woman' is
seducing the reader



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Puig's 'Kiss of the Spider Woman' Is Seducing the Reader Manuel Puig has written his work 'Kiss of the Spider Woman' with the purpose of raising the questions of morality. But as soon as the book is read, it becomes clear, that Puig seduces the reader. He seduces him in many ways, but we will here concentrate on the two main 'strategies' Puig uses.

The first and the main means through which Puig seduces, or 'leads away' the reader, lies in the peculiar design of the book. It has been written in the form of the dialogue of the two imprisoned - Valentin and Molina, one of whom is known for his radical political views, the other one being equally radical in the views relating to sex. The descriptions of the movies are interrupted with men clarifying their attitudes and relationships. Though it may seem boring from the very beginning, the reader suddenly understands, that he has been led away by the author - as soon as he is involved into the next narration, Puig makes a theatrical gesture: it is high time for the prisoners to have a sleep, and thus the only thing left for us is to wait for the next part of the story.

But the main line of seduction lies in the urge to discuss the questions of sex, homosexuality, which are directly related to the issues of morality. By describing the two men having sexual relations, Puig deconstructs the superiority of everything feminine in the world. As Valentine says, 'when it comes to our relationship.... We could make any damn thing out of it we want; our relationship isn't pressured since outside of this cell we may have our oppressors, yes, but not inside. Here no one oppresses the other' (p. 202), which shows the main deconstruction of the male behavior by Puig. In this way the author as if seduces us to think, that probably there is nothing immoral in homosexual relations between the two men, and that probably <https://assignbuster.com/puigs-kiss-of-the-spider-woman-is-seducing-the-reader/>

such relations have the right to exist, but here the question of morality comes into the conflict. Being seduced, the reader later understands, that in fact he has been led away by the author; he was made think, that homosexuality is a normal thing in the modern society. 'The only thing that seems to disturb me ... because I'm exhausted, or conditioned or perverted ... is that someone wants to be nice to me, without asking anything back for it" (p. 202)', Valentin continues. Is it that Puig seduces us to think, that relations between men might appear better, than relations between a man and a woman, as women always want something in return Is it that only between men existence of true comradeship without feeling any personal loss is possible

Puig seduces us to see, that probably there can be performed some major shifts in the male psychology, for as Valentin interrupts Molina, retelling the story of the Cat Woman, and starts discussing the motives of the movie characters, he also says the following: 'If you embroider, why can't I too' (p. 23)

Reading the seventh chapter of the book, it is seen, that Molina and Valentin argue on the subject of Molina's adding his own thoughts and opinions to the plot of the Cat Woman movie. Dismissing Valentin by quoting a phrase from Rigoletto becomes the sign of the deep sophistication in Molina, and here Puig seduces us once more - trying to make us feel the conventional representation of male and female in Valentin and Molina.

As a conclusion, I might say, that the whole 'Kiss of the Spider Woman' is a seduction for the reader - the seduction to read it to the end and the seduction to accept the viewpoint of the author. The reader finds himself involved into the plot of the story, and suddenly understands that he has <https://assignbuster.com/puigs-kiss-of-the-spider-woman-is-seducing-the-reader/>

been led away from the questions of morality and traditional sexuality which exist in the present world. The reader loses the main line of the story, forgetting, that the book describes the two men, seeing rather the relations of imaginary man and woman.

We are seduced at reconstructing the understanding of the masculine psychology and spirituality, which distracts us from our traditional views. Thus, the whole book may be described as a seduction to the issues of morality.