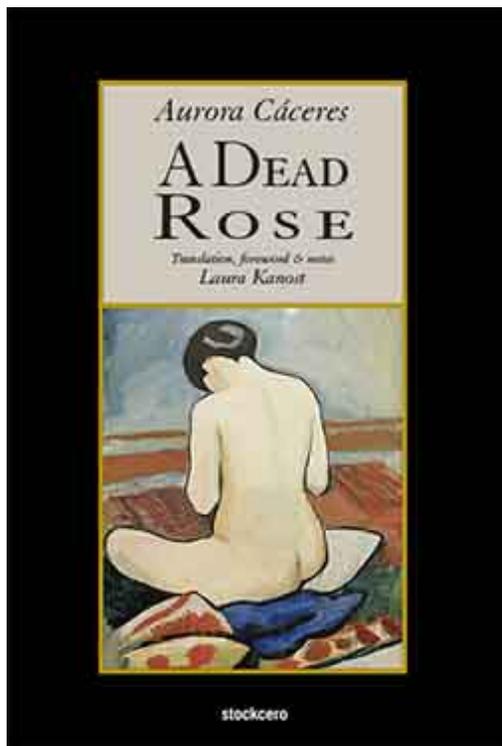


## A Dead Rose



**Cáceres, Aurora**

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Translation, Foreword & Notes

Laura Kanost

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106 Pages - In English



Published in Paris in 1914, Cáceres's novel *La rosa muerta*, translated by Laura Kanost as *A Dead Rose*, stands today as the most influential *modernista* prose work penned by a woman.

In this audacious story of an ailing woman who initiates an affair with her gynecologist, Cáceres not only defies cultural conventions of feminine modesty to speak publicly about women's health and sexuality, but does so by appropriating the language of a literary movement that silenced women. Unlike her most of her contemporaries, Cáceres does not reduce illness to a clinical case, an example of degeneration, or a symbol of social ills –nor does her protagonist's affliction merely signal the social deviance of the *modernista* intellectual or the beauty ascribed to the objectified *modernista* woman, seen as still more beautiful if languishing or dead.

Rather, Cáceres portrays illness as a multifaceted experience that is affected by the social context within which it takes place and ultimately is not overcome through modern medicine. Left to carry on into the future are two characters who thrive because they are not constrained by gender conventions: a nurturing, selfless male doctor devoted to science, and his beautiful and deeply intelligent young daughter.

*A Dead Rose* is an extension of Cáceres's cosmopolitan identity and feminist stance developed over a lifetime of travel and scholarship. The daughter of a Peruvian

president, Cáceres was equally at home in the Americas and Europe. She founded numerous feminist and cultural organizations and authored essays, novels, short stories, and life-writing, including a memoir of her turbulent marriage to famed Guatemalan *modernista* Enrique Gómez Carrillo.

Steeped in the modern technologies, fashions, and social networks of early 20th-century Paris and Berlin, this brief and engaging novel will appeal to readers interested in gender and women's studies, global literature, and medical humanities. Dr. Kanost's introductory study contextualizes the novel within the author's production and explores its connections to *modernismo* and feminism, engaging the critical conversation that developed in the wake of the novel's second edition, prepared by Dr. Thomas Ward (2007)

**Aurora Cáceres** (1877-1958), clara representante del movimiento modernista, ha sido injustificadamente olvidada. Hija de un presidente peruano y afincada en Europa, escribió novelas, ensayos, libros de viaje y una biografía de su marido, el novelista guatemalteco **Enrique Gómez Carrillo** . Su vida está íntimamente ligada con la historia peruana, la Guerra del Pacífico (1879-1883), la guerra civil de 1895, y el exilio en París. Recientemente sus ensayos han empezado a recibir cierta atención de los académicos que buscan entender el modernismo desde una perspectiva de género.