

FILM REVIEW

CURIOSITY, ADVENTURE AND LOVE

A Film Review

By Soneca Moraleda-Puguan

"I feel that it is our duty to help our fellow men. Some place along the line we are always helped. But always there's something that you can do that has nothing to do with you yourself but it's a sense of responsibility and compassion."

Upon hearing these lines, my heart was pierced. These were the words of Jessie Coe, a Cuban-born American lady who at 18 years old found love with a Filipino lawyer and diplomat whom she met in the United States. She came to the Philippines upon Marcial Lichauco's invitation and they got married soon after. Since then, the Philippines became her home.

Her life was changed. Many lives have been changed by her. And many more are being touched by her, for more than a century now.

While watching the film, I found myself amazed at what love can do. As scenes of the

past flash on the screen, I was being educated about the Philippine history in a way I've never known before through the eyes of an outsider who embraced our culture. As I listened to the words of Jessie telling her story, I noticed myself reflecting about my passion for my own country. Being a Filipino living overseas, I sometimes find myself comfortable in the progressive land I am in that coming home is the last thing on my mind. There are times that my hope dwindles for my own nation that is plagued by corruption, crime and economic breakdown. Then here's one lady, growing up without a mother, who had become one to many of my countrymen who were broken by war. Though she has a different color, language and race, her compassion transcended all these and chose to extend love. My heart was broken but at the same time, my soul grateful and my spirit inspired.

The documentary was woven beautifully, with nostalgic music playing on the background. But more than the aesthetic aspect, I believe that the lessons that can be learned from the extraordinary



nary life led by the ordinary Jessie are the most important take-away. Her every word lingers, her life worth remembering. Jessie's life story is indeed one that draws you in; she has become a bridge between the past and the present

as some have described her; and she makes you believe in the goodness of man, compassion of the heart and love that transcends culture and color. At 106, she still continues to live under the ancient Banyan Tree in a 250-year old

Spanish colonial home along the Pasig River. All have bore witness and survived through monumental transitions of the Philippine history - from a flourishing American colony, through the Japanese occupation during the World War II, the Philippine independence and its development to a modern society.

According to Sunshine Lichauco de Leon, the documentary's producer-storyteller and one of Jessie's 18 grandchildren, she made the film about her Nana because it is her hope that her story will remind people of what we have in common and inspire them to be more compassionate to each other.

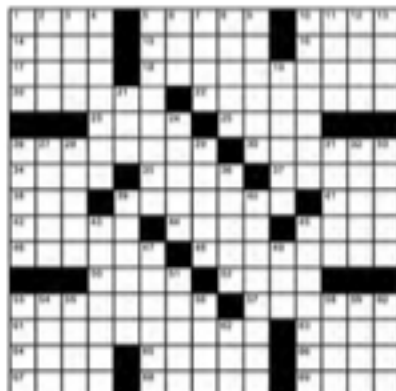
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CROSSWORD No. 18

by Carlito Lalicon

ACROSS

1. Former Senator, Antonio _____
5. Former Senator, Eulogio _____
10. Former Senator Lapid _____
14. Bone-dry _____
15. Strand, in a way _____
16. Cut of meat _____
17. Encircle _____
18. Deadlocked _____
20. Navy builder _____
22. Summer quencher _____
23. With the bow, in music _____
25. Brave _____
26. Divine inspiration _____
30. Moon of Neptune _____
34. Brook _____
35. Lab burner _____
37. Probe that sends information about its environment _____
38. Wood sorrel _____
39. Increased _____
41. By means of _____
42. _____



52. Attention _____
53. Driven _____
57. Without _____
61. Pasta _____
63. Account _____

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“Jessie Lichauco’s life has been exceptional and truly unique, and I believe the universal themes which her story touches – romance, marrying into another culture, adventuring to another country at a young age, history, war, saving children and her humanitarianism, will make the film appeal to any audience, regardless of age, gender or nationality”, she said.

Sunshine added, “If this film encourages people to live life with a greater curiosity, more sense of adventure, and a deeper compassion and love towards each other, then I have done my job as a storyteller.”

I believe that she has achieved her goal and it has been executed excellently. It is truly worth one’s time.

Curiosity, Adventure and Love has won five awards and been accepted in seven festivals. It is now available on digital platforms across the United States. For more information on the film, follow their social media accounts.

Twitter : @nanafilm

Instagram: @curiosityadventureandlove

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/curiosityadventureandlove/>