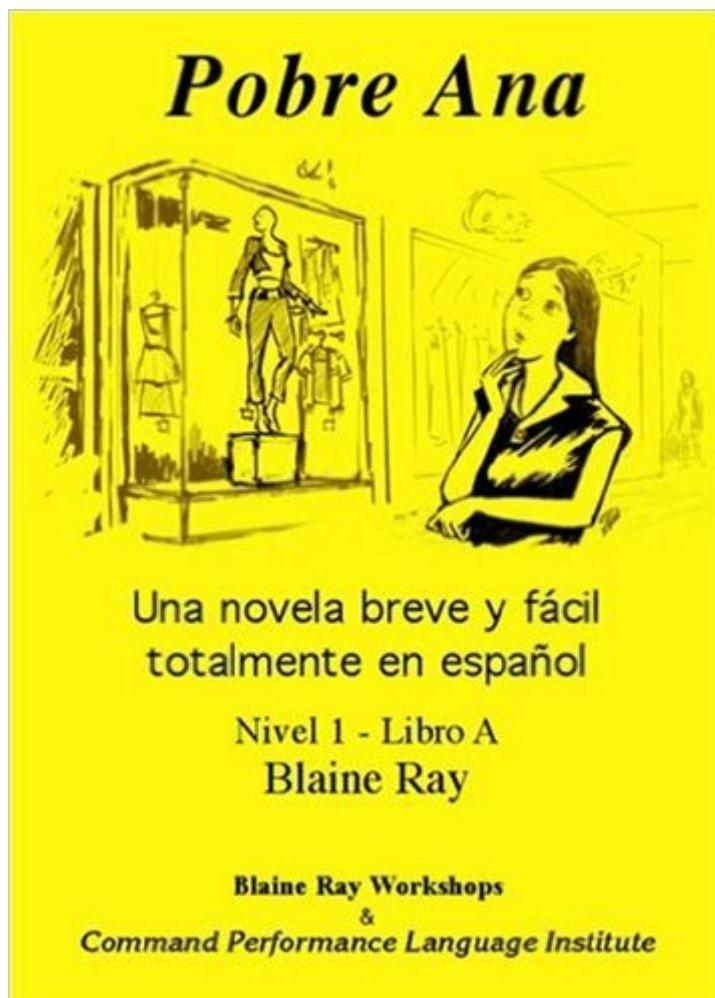


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# Pobre Ana: Una Novela Breve Y Facil Totalmente En Espanol (Nivel 1 - Libro A) (Spanish Edition)



## **Synopsis**

Pobre Ana by Blaine Ray The easiest novel in an easy series of novels for first-year students. Ana is a 15-year-old California girl who leads a tough life. Her mother is always on her. Her family doesn't have much money, but her best friends' families are rich. She's extremely jealous of them. When she gets an opportunity to go to Mexico, she goes to a small city where she lives with a very nice family that is poorer than her own family. Her view of her life changes radically. When she gets back to California, she sees everything in a different light. Pobre Ana is short and easy.

## **Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (33 customer reviews)

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## **Customer Reviews**

I teach first-year high school Spanish and I use Pobre Ana near the end of the course. I could use it earlier as well. The chapters are short. The story contrasts life in California with life in Tepic, Mexico, all through the eyes of Ana. Ana is from California and doesn't think her quality of life is adequate since she doesn't have a new Mustang, et.al. However, once in Mexico she sees that relationships and the things she can control (like knowing Spanish well) are more important. The story is a good language learning tool, especially the obviously necessary use of the indirect object pronouns throughout with all the "she said to them", "he said to her" tags. I would have given 5 stars, but my early edition had a couple of character's names mixed up. I assume that this has been corrected by now.

This is an excellent 'beginning' book for anyone who wants to increase their Spanish learning. It consists of 300 of the most frequently used words in a first year Spanish class that make up a

wonderful story. It is suitable, I feel, for anyone from Middle School to adult.

This is a wonderful novel for Spanish I students in High School. I could even use it with 7th and 8th graders, I believe. We use it during the summer to keep their Spanish abilities active, and also to build confidence and comprehension. This book does many things for a student: 1) builds vocabulary 2) improves comprehension level 3) motivates students to find out "what happens" 4) provides a new way to increase Spanish knowledge. As a teacher of ages 3 to 18 year olds, I use excerpts from these books here and there, and use them for a Summer Spanish reading program each summer. Great idea and execution! Sra. Gose Author of *Flip Flop Spanish: Ages 3-5: Level 1*

Learning a new language doesn't have to involve endless verb drills and tiresome memorization of words without any context. Absolute beginners need to learn some rules, of course, but a slew of new readers have recently emerged that allow even first year students to read real stories and situations. The Blaine Ray series starts at an extremely basic level. Almost anyone with the most rudimentary knowledge of Spanish can read the hilarious "Berto y sus buenas ideas," at "nível elemental." Those, hopefully everyone, wanting more can move along to level 1, starting with "Pobre Ana," a real story in real beginner's Spanish. Anna, poor Anna, has problems. Her mother shouts at her, her father has no money and all of her friends have new clothes, shoes, cars and an endless stream of cash and enviable material wealth. Anna's family has an old car, used clothing and a small house. What horror! Opportunity comes her way when her school in California allows her to stay with a family in Tepic, Mexico for a summer. She meets new friends, realizes how other people live, learns the error of her ways and returns home a new woman. The happy end. Given the level of grammar and vocabulary that "Pobre Ana" contains, such a detailed story exceeds expectations. Though obviously not Pulitzer Prize material, beginners will feel as though they're reading real Spanish and not "See Jane run." Requiring no more than a handful of present tense verbs and some basic vocabulary a full story with dialogue and characterizations emerges like magic. Any unknown words, and even conjugated verbs, appear in a handy vocabulary list at book's end. "Pobre Ana" is a fully self-contained experience needing no tools but a beginner's knowledge of Spanish. It should also inspire moving to higher levels in the Blaine Ray series. Eleven total books in four graduated levels provide plenty of opportunity for improvement and further study. "Pobre Ana" is just the beginning.

Okay, the story is pretty boring, and the text is repetitive. However, this is a great book for

beginners. Remembering back to my how I was taught Spanish, I seem to remember learning things like greetings, how to introduce myself, simple ways to describe people, how to talk about my family, and present tense verbs. That is about what's in this book. The vocabulary is only about 400 words, and the verbs are (I think) all in the present tense. There's even a mini-dictionary in the back, containing all the words in the book, for quick reference. The plot is appropriate for all ages, and describes a girl's trip to Mexico (I think it was) and what she learned from her experiences there. Like I said, expect a lot of repetition, but it's nice that there's an actual plot that holds together. If you are wondering the type of content, expect things like: "Ana lives in Mexico. She has one brother and one sister. Her brother is tall and has brown hair. Her sister is short and has black hair. Her mother works at the hospital. Her mother is a doctor." Except, obviously, in Spanish. Not going to win any literature awards, but great for learning.

Pobre Ana is a great book for beginning Spanish students. It is easy to understand, and if one purchases the CD it really helps because the native speaker does an excellent job reading it and makes it very understandable. The book increases ones Spanish vocabulary greatly. If you are serious about learning the Spanish language then this is the book for you. It is a "gateway" to further reading and understanding Spanish. Lee

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