



THE LOVERS OF TERUEL



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The most beautiful love story ever told



The legend tells that in 13th Century there lived in Teruel. Isabel de Segura, daughter of a powerful family, and Juan Diego de Marcilla, a wealthy family offspring that would not inherit since he was not the first son.

The two youngsters, friends from childhood, fell madly in love for each other, but Diego's lack of estate would prevent them from getting married. Due to their obstinacy, her father finally agreed a deal: Isabel would attend for Diego for five years so he would have time to make fortune abroad.

At the eve of the deathtime and having received no news from Diego, Isabel accepted to get married to a nobleman, Don Pedro de Azagra, Albarracin Lord (heir of one of the Muslim Taifa kingdoms).

But fate decreed that while the city was celebrating the wedding, Diego would arrive to Teruel, happy and willing to marry his beloved, since he had earned fortune in war.

He was told of his misfortune; his beloved had just married another one. Desperate and soul shattered, he went to Isabel's house to ask for a kiss.

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She would not yield to his requests so as not to let down her husband. He insisted and insisted but she would not bend. And Diego fell, dead.

Funerals were celebrated next day. Repented and brokenhearted, Isabel attended the funeral to give the previously refused kiss. Breaking all protocols and social rules, she put forward both families, approached the unanimated body of her beloved and after kissing him, fell dead over Diego's body.

In 1555, during renovation works, both bodies appeared and so a document confirming their identities.

After peregrinating from one shrine to another, the lovers' remains rest since 2005 under Juan de Ávalos' alabaster stone, in the new Lovers Mausoleum, which receives around 20,000 visits per year.

Isabel's Wedding commemorates these events, from the wedding announcement on Thursday, to their deaths on Sunday.

Around the third Friday of February, the city of Teruel transforms into a genuine medieval village packed with stalls of artisans and taverns to commemorate the story of the Lovers from Teruel.

The entire city and nearly one hundred thousand visitors, tripling the local population, flood the streets of Teruel, everyone clads in 13th century garb. In the squares and streets about four hundred participants act out the story, almost in real time. During these days, the capital of Teruel is filled with concerts, performances, theater, and a whole series of activities for all ages, which have turned *Las Bodas de Isabel de Segura* into a major tourist attraction.

After twenty years, *Las Bodas de Isabel de Segura* has become in one of the most outstanding landmarks in national historic re-enactments.

Thanks to the work of the *Bodas de Isabel* Foundation, historical accuracy and overwhelming popular participation, Isabel's Wedding has been intensely awarded.

Since 2010 the beginning of this love story has been represented in Teruel on the first weekend of October, That moment when Diego and Isabel made their promise of eternal love but Isabel's father didn't approve the union and gives Diego de Marcilla 5 years to come back to Teruel loaded with riches. It was then when the young man was named knight and departed to the War after a heartbreaking farewell from his beloved Isabel.

"Diego's departure" is a minority party but where the same emotion and skills from the performers can be found.

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ISABEL'S WEDDING GENERIC SYNOPSIS

Medieval re-enactment on The Lovers of Teruel (1217)

"The most beautiful love story ever told".

150 actors with text

4,000 extras

17,000 people wearing 13th Century costumes

100,000 visitors

The city of Teruel throws itself into this emblematic winter festive season. It is a recreational and cultural festival held by hundreds of extras wearing 13th Century clothing according to their guilds, characters, military and religious orders, council officials, outcasts, etc.

This performance commemorates for four days the misfortune of the legend *The Lovers' of Teruel* after an arranged marriage that triggers the denouement.

Thursday:

Diego de Marcilla's death announcement.

Isabel de Segura and Pedro Fernandez de Azagra wedding announcement.

- ✚ *Elements of Andalusian costume. Albarracin Lord retinue.*
- ✚ *Repertoire: song, poem, dance, music.*

Friday:

Medieval fair

- ✚ *Duba-themed market area: products, calligraphy workshops, storytelling, poetry, historical science exhibition, exhibitions.*

Opening speech

- ✚ *Some emblematic personality of the Arab world, Arab culture or science could be the speaker.*

Wedding ceremony.

- Aesthetics and content of a Muslim wedding.

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- Cultural and festive repertoire: poetry, music, dance, acrobatics, exotic animals, gifts, promises...

Tornabodas: The City Tenente delivers justice according to the Town Charter.

General Chapter of the Templarian Order.

Saturday:

Participation activities for children

- *Children games: wit games, science, storytelling, calligraphy...*

Rope contest: military versus religious orders

- *Skill exhibition by Arab warriors.*

Rite of the Wedding Bull (*roped* bull -tied with a rope- in Teruel streets)

Tournament or Cane Games in the bullring.

✚ *Traditional games and warriors*

Diego's arrival, meeting with Isabel and death.



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Sunday:

Diego de Marcilla's funeral and Isabel de Segura's death.

✚ *Weepers and other characters.*

Kiss moment (public call for kissing in honor of The Lovers of Teruel).

Drumming for Love.

Closing time



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"Bodas de Isabel de Segura" Foundation

Middle Age specialists: historical re-enactments. Counselling and events organization, conferences, costumes, scripts on demand, activities, entertainment performances database, and so on.

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