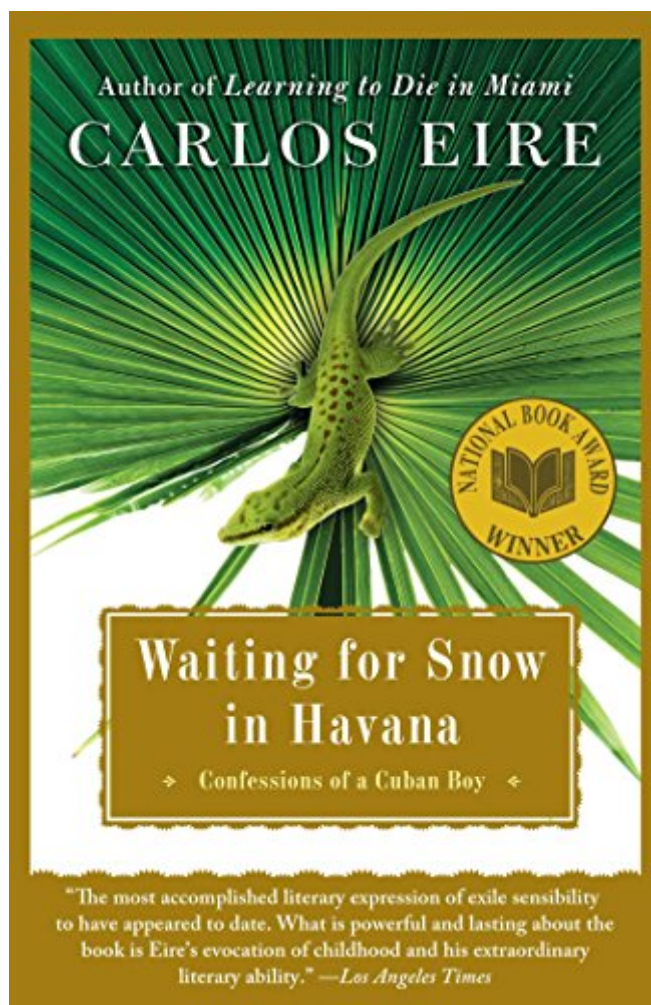


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Waiting For Snow In Havana: Confessions Of A Cuban Boy



Synopsis

“Have mercy on me, Lord, I am Cuban.” In 1962, Carlos Eire was one of 14,000 children airlifted out of Havana—exiled from his family, his country, and his own childhood by Fidel Castro’s revolution. Winner of the National Book Award, this stunning memoir is a vibrant and evocative look at Latin America from a child’s unforgettable experience. It is both an exorcism and an ode to a paradise lost. For the Cuba of Carlos’s youth—with its lizards and turquoise seas and sun-drenched siestas—becomes an island of condemnation once a cigar-smoking guerrilla named Fidel Castro ousts President Batista on January 1, 1959. Suddenly the music in the streets sounds like gunfire. Christmas is made illegal, political dissent leads to imprisonment, and too many of Carlos’s friends are leaving Cuba for a place as far away and unthinkable as the United States. Carlos will end up there, too, and fulfill his mother’s dreams by becoming a modern American man—even if his soul remains in the country he left behind. Narrated with the urgency of a confession, it is a eulogy for a native land and a loving testament to the collective spirit of Cubans everywhere.

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Customer Reviews

A wonderful and moving memoir. Historian, writer and professor Carlos Eire recounts his boyhood adventures in 1950's Havana. Waiting for Snow in Havana is the Cuba Libre Cuba was before Fidel Castro destroyed it one layer at a time. Having seen final goodbyes in Cuba, my heart ached for Carlos father standing there watching his two boys leave Cuba as part of Pedro Pan Project. He would never see his boys again.

Interesting bildungsroman with political and religious aspects, but above all some magical writing. Describes a life that is half-reality and half fantasy or maybe just fanciful. Odd and quirky parents and relatives but almost all composed primarily of love and caring. What happens to a form of paradise when totalitarianism bops in on the head. Includes reference to the passing pervert as well though lightly handled or maybe just briefly handled. Catholic boyhoods (I had one too) are interesting, each in its' own way. Praise for this memoir is justified because of the quality of the writing and though factually real it exudes magic. Childhood is a kind of paradise for many children even in Cuba or maybe most especially in pre-Castro Cuba. Highly recommend. Some chapters made me laugh; others made me soar.

Now this is really a ground level view into life in another cultural reality, namely upperclass Cuba before and during the Castro revolution. Wow. Great writer. It's funny, scary, bizarre all at once. Mr. Eire is a fine writer and remembers so much in such detail. I don't want to spoil the narrative so I won't give details, only to say that this book takes its place in the select group of great writing about and by immigrants.

I too spent a good deal of time in Cuba in those years before 1959. I was older and an American child who spent time in many of the places Carlos did. Of course as a girl I was a lot kinder to the lizards but was equally fascinated. We stayed at the National Hotel and used their pool

Interesting account in search of identity as a displaced soul reminiscent of the plight of refugees immigrating to the USA from all corners of the world. I can attest to the struggles faced under a government forced to accept an ideology that hardly meets the basic tenets of democracy and faced with transformation under the guise of equality for the masses. The narrative however is overly

detailed in some chapters and difficult to follow a clear chronology of time and place. Overall I recommend this book as a look into the Cuban society BC (before Castro) and a window of the hope and struggle of one boy leaving his birthplace and faced with assimilating in his adopted country as is the case of many of immigrants of current and past generations.

The writing in this book is so engaging that I was immediately sucked in. In spite of the topic, the revolution in Cuba and a child sent to the US without his parents, it is charming. A very timely book

I read this with my book club. I found it extremely interesting. If you're not very familiar with the history of Cuba, do like I did before reading the book... refresh your memory with a quick google search of Batista and Castro. This gives you the background to fully appreciate the book In this true story, the author (now a professor at Harvard) uses sad moments and funny moments to show us the world through the eyes of a young man growing up in Cuba. You'll find the unique culture of Cuba amazing.

Excellent. Opened my eyes to what it was like to be a child in Cuba and be located without your parents. Well written. Funny.

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