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Fidel Y Raul, Mis Hermanos [Fidel And Raul, My Brothers]: La Historia Secreta



Synopsis

Este libro relata la vida de una familia y unos acontecimientos que cambiaron para siempre la historia de América Latina. Como nadie más podía hacerlo, Juanita nos adentra en el mundo familiar de los Castro, desde su infancia y juventud hasta las nuevas generaciones, pasando por la gesta contra Batista, la Revolución y el posterior desencanto de muchos. A lo largo de este fascinante relato desfilan los míticos personajes de la Revolución Cubana. Fidel y Raúl Castro, Camilo Cienfuegos, Ernesto "Che" Guevara y Celia Sánchez, entre otros, muestran aquí su faceta menos conocida. Juanita lleva más de cincuenta años guardando un doloroso secreto que hasta sus hermanos desconocen. He aquí el valiente relato de quien ha decidido revelarlo todo. Please note: This audiobook is in Spanish.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I wondered whether to write this in Spanish or English? The reviews seem mixed and to sort along lines of whether the reviewer is someone personally affected by Castro, or whether they're someone like me, a total gringo though steeped in Spanish, and a fan of history generally. One of the reviewers opined that this is a book of anecdotes and nothing more ("Libro de anécdotas y nada más") and indeed that was my first impression, and the consensus of the little Spanish book tertulia with which I read it. Juanita's point of view is that of a sister having personal and political differences with an esteemed or infamous brother (Fidel) and his famous or infamous associates. I didn't read all the chapters at first, but rather gave the book unfinished to my wife for sale at the university

women's book sale. A couple months later, I found myself still thinking about it, so I had to ask my wife to return it so I could finish the skipped-over chapters. I dismissed Juanita's book too quickly, but in retrospect, it made more of an impression on me than was originally apparent. Yes, it is a book of anecdotes. Yes, it is opinionated, and written unapologetically by a sister critical of her brothers in high places. They disappointed her by betraying the Revolution and exchanging one dictatorship for another. Only a sister can write this way. However, her's is a deeply personal account of a time and place in history, seen through the eyes of someone uniquely situated, and there is something to be learned from it, as from any book of memoirs. With that in mind, the book is honest. I finished and appreciated her account once I came to terms (to accept) that understanding.

"In the end, in the eyes of God, all the glory and power in the world fit in a grain of rice. He is the one who judges, only Him." With these words, Juanita Castro Ruz concludes her captivating memoir. This is the perfect ending for a book written by a deeply religious and family loving person, not by an unbiased outsider who would use qualifiers such as merciless tyrants, murderers, thieves, megalomaniacs etc. to describe her brothers for what they really are. Juanita's lenient representation, in my opinion is understandable. Readers expecting a Castro bashing book will be disappointed. In spite of accusing her brothers of betraying the revolution, and exposing some of Fidel's ruthlessness, Juanita refrains from using well deserved negative expressions to describe them. But there are some topics missing in the book: The author doesn't mention that Fidel Castro is among the wealthiest heads of state second only to Queen Elizabeth II with a billion dollars in foreign investments. Communism at its best! (Forbes Magazine, 2003) She doesn't reveal that his beloved brother Raul is addicted to alcohol and suffers from severe bouts of depression, for the man has a very low self esteem. She doesn't mention that Raul as a "compassionate" six-year-old, along with his brother Fidel, loved to perform appendectomies in live ducklings by mercilessly cutting them in half. (I own the video tape in which Raul laughs at his childhood adventures.

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