



The Cuban Chronicles: A True Tale of Rascals, Rogues, and Romance

Wanda St. Hilaire

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In the infancy of Cuba's tourism, Wanda St. Hilaire takes a trip to the tiny island. In spite of her love of all things Latin, she puts herself on a travel ban to Castro's Cuba, one that lasts twenty years. When she is forced to cancel a trip to Oaxaca, Mexico at the last minute, she finds herself in Cuba twice, on back-to-back trips. Walking into the backstreets of Havana, eyes wide open, she finds herself pulled into a dalliance with a charismatic cubano.

Underneath the faade of Cuba's tourism lies the desperation of a society living mostly in abject poverty. When tourists mingle with locals, we get a glimpse of what underlies the frivolity of Cuban entanglements. St. Hilaire speaks with an authentic voice and doesn't mince words; she recounts her own activities, emotions and opinions with refreshing honesty.

With each solo adventure, the author reaches a deeper understanding of human nature and the world. At the same time, she conducts a journey of self-discovery, learning about her own entrenched beliefs, biases and blemishes.

The Cuban Chronicles: A True Tale of Rascals, Rogues, and Romance Details

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Vicki Morrison says

An intensely articulate and moving travel memoir of self discovery. A fiercely honest account of what can happen when we open our hearts to new experiences and cultures, and the bravery to deal with the consequences and willingness to share with others.

Having a strong desire to visit Cuba, I devoured the book in one sitting and appreciate the carefully recorded history and the insight offered by the author. Beautifully written and will touch a nerve with fellow travelers

Bruce Sarte says

The very first thing that stood out to me is the format of this story. It is written in a diary/letter format very similar to Sands of Time. I found the style and structure to be something that brought me into the writers mind and moments.

What this story really does well is set the scene and deliver the essence of who she is. Wanda sets out on a trip to Cuba and she invites the reader into her timeline with descriptive and eventful writing. Wanda's Cuban adventure is a great ride for those who have never been to Cuba and even for those who know the country well. The honesty within the words of what it is to be a foreigner in Cuba shines through in her writing. The whirlwind of Wanda's romantic flirtations with many men finally ends up with her and Paulo together. But she doesn't live in Cuba... so the journey continues with a return to Cuba and the drama really heats up.

This is as much a travel journal as it is a romantic story as it is a dramatic nail-biter in some spots. It is a very enjoyable story to read and fascinating slice of life.

Lisa Smith says

reality romance + travelogue = gorgeous!

I couldn't put the book down as the story kept me engaged to the end. The author beautifully blends cultural and culinary commentary into a "reality romance" story. Since I first read the book several years ago, Cuba has gone on to my must-see travel list. Looking forward to the author's new book for more of the delightful mix of travel, adventure and romance.

Harvee says

What I thought would be basically a travel memoir turned out to be experiences behind the scenes, away from the main tourist attractions, told in a journal dated September to January 2006-2007.. The author

doesn't do the usual tourist jaunts and has some unpleasant scenes, unhappy love affairs, and different experiences with tourists and expatriates living in Cuba. More...

Sherri Birrell says

i loved this book! The authors honest, real stories of her exploits in Cuba were touching and interesting. She met some real rakes, thats for sure, but did encounter some nice people along the way as well. I highly recommend this for any woman, whether she be happily married or miserably single or vice versa. Something for everyone!!

Sharkcrow says

I really struggled with the way this book was written. I usually really enjoy first person narratives, but I found it really hard to get into this novel. Maybe I need a few more years under my belt before I can relate and engage with the main character.

Heather says

This book has author's autograph.
