

Chapter 1 : Hidden wives, mistresses and kids: Fidel Castro's secret life

*Love in Castro's Land [Florencio E. Eiranova-Cuza] on www.nxgvision.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Politicians and tourists, decent honest people, have a picture of Cuba.*

Declaring himself president, Batista cancelled the planned presidential elections, describing his new system as "disciplined democracy"; Castro, like many others, considered it a one-man dictatorship. His lawsuits coming to nothing, Castro began thinking of alternate ways to oust the new government. The former agitated through underground newspaper *El Acusador* The Accuser, while the latter armed and trained anti-Batista recruits. If we fail, our action will nevertheless set an example for the Cuban people, and from the people will arise fresh new men willing to die for Cuba. They will pick up our banner and move forward The people will back us in Oriente and in the whole island. The rebels would seize control, raid the armory and escape before reinforcements arrived. Reaching the barracks, the alarm was raised, with most of the rebels pinned down outside the base by machine gun fire. Those that got inside faced heavy resistance, and 4 were killed before Castro ordered a retreat. Accompanied by 19 comrades, Castro decided to set out for Gran Piedra in the rugged Sierra Maestra mountains several miles to the north, where they could establish a guerrilla base. Propaganda broadcast misinformation about the event, claiming that the rebels were communists who had killed hospital patients. Castro was sentenced separately, on October 16, during which he delivered a speech that would be printed under the title of *History Will Absolve Me*. This was kept a secret from Castro, who found out through a radio announcement. Appalled, he raged that he would rather die "a thousand times" than "suffer impotently from such an insult". Both Fidel and Mirta initiated divorce proceedings, with Mirta taking custody of their son Fidelito; this angered Castro, who did not want his son growing up in a bourgeois environment. I am sure this would bring happiness to the Cuban people. I would not be stopped by the hatred and ill will of a few thousand people, including some of my relatives, half the people I know, two-thirds of my fellow professionals, and four-fifths of my ex-schoolmates. Some politicians suggested an amnesty would be good publicity, and the Congress and Batista agreed. Backed by the U. Castro dismissed calls for the leadership to be transferred to a democratic board, arguing that a successful revolution could not be run by committee. Some then abandoned the MR, labeling Castro a caudillo dictator, although the majority remained loyal. As Castro would later relate: As a man, as an extraordinary human being. He was also a person of great culture, a person of great intelligence. And with military qualities as well. He was a doctor who became a soldier without ceasing for a single minute to be a doctor. Fidel liked him, later describing him as "a more advanced revolutionary than I was. Antonio traveled to Mexico City to meet with Castro, but they disagreed on tactics; Antonio thought that it was legitimate to assassinate anyone connected to the government, something Castro thought rash and ineffective. At some points they had to bail water caused by a leak, and at another a man fell overboard, delaying their journey. Castro biographer Robert E. Quirk noted that there was "no better place to hide" in all the island. In January they overran the outpost near to the beach at La Plata; Guevara treated the soldiers for any injuries, but the revolutionaries executed the local mayoral land-company overseer Chicho Osorio, whom the local peasants despised and who boasted of killing one of the MR rebels several weeks previously. For the campesinos and everybody else, for the press, for the reporters we were "los barbudos" - the bearded ones. It had its positive side: Later, with the triumph of the Revolution, we kept our beards to preserve the symbolism. Police responded with mass arrests, torture and extrajudicial killings, with corpses hung on trees to intimidate dissidents. Rejecting the rule of a provisional military junta, it demanded the setting up of a provisional civilian government "supported by all" which would implement moderate agrarian reform, industrialization and a literacy campaign before introducing "truly fair, democratic, impartial, elections". Upon meeting with Castro, he detailed the events that occurred since the December 2nd, Months beforehand, the US media spread news that Castro had died in the midst of the failed Granma landing in Oriente Province in December 2, Instead, Castro and the rest of the survivors retreated to the Sierra Mountains and had since been engaged in guerilla warfare with Batista military. The New York Times published the article on February 24, , letting the rest of the world, including US embassy officials, know for

the first time that Castro was indeed alive. When this war is over a much wider and bigger war will begin for me: I know that this is my real destiny. Influenced by anti-Batista sentiment among their citizens, the U. Beginning on 9 April, it received strong support in central and eastern Cuba, but little elsewhere. The army aerielly bombarded forested areas and villages suspected of aiding the militants, while 10, soldiers under the command of General Eulogio Cantillo surrounded the Sierra Maestra, driving north to the rebel encampments. Despite their numerical and technological superiority, the army had no experience with guerrilla warfare or with the mountainous region. Now with men at his command, Castro avoided open confrontation, using land mines and ambushes to halt the enemy offensive. After being approached with this proposal, Cantillo secretly met with Castro, agreeing that the two would call a ceasefire, following which Batista would be apprehended and tried as a war criminal. Recognizing the establishment of a military junta, he ended the ceasefire and continued on the offensive. Foreign journalists commented on the unprecedented level of public adulation, with Castro striking a heroic "Christ-like figure" and wearing a medallion of the Virgin Mary. Matthews spoke highly of Castro, noting his charisma and sharp, political mind frame. Comments like these help shape the positive image Castro had in during this era. Politically moderate, Urrutia had defended MR revolutionaries in court, arguing that the Moncada Barracks attack was legal according to the Cuban constitution. Castro believed Urrutia would make a good leader, being both established yet sympathetic to the revolution. Proclaiming himself Representative of the Rebel Armed Forces of the Presidency, Castro " along with close aides and family members " set up home and office in the penthouse of the Havana Hilton Hotel , there meeting with journalists, foreign visitors and government ministers. Ensuring the government implemented policies to cut corruption and fight illiteracy, he did not initially force through any radical proposals. The government now ruling by decree , Castro pushed the president to issue a temporary ban on all political parties, but repeatedly stated that they would get around to organizing multiparty elections; this never occurred. We are executing murderers and they deserve it. Popular uproar across Cuba demanded that those figures who had been complicit in the widespread torture and killing of civilians be brought to justice. Although remaining a moderating force and opposing the mass reprisal killings advocated by many, Castro helped set-up trials of many Batistanos, resulting in hundreds of executions. Although widely popular domestically, critics " in particular from the U. In response, Castro proclaimed that "revolutionary justice is not based on legal precepts, but on moral conviction", organizing the first Havana trial to take place before a mass audience of 17, at the Sports Palace stadium. He also intervned in other trials to ensure that what he saw as "revolutionary justice" was carried out; when a group of aviators accused of bombing a village were found not guilty at a trial in Santiago de Cuba , Castro ordered a retrial in which they were found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Chapter 2 : Fidel Castro and the Jews

The Castros then created a slave island where no freedom of speech or the press was permitted, and non-conformity could get one assigned to work for the rest of his lifetime in the sugarcane.

His supporters in Havana described him as a tireless defender of the poor. Castro was "a giant of the Third World", said Agustin Diaz Cartaya, 85, who joined Castro in the attack in eastern Cuba that launched the revolution. For five decades, he worked to turn the island nation into a place of equality and social justice. His government produced tens of thousands of doctors and teachers and achieved some of the lowest infant mortality and illiteracy rates in the Western hemisphere. But Cuba never shook off its dependence on foreign dollars and the state-run economy failed to bring prosperity to most Cubans. Cuba stumbled along even after the collapse of its chief sponsor, the former Soviet Union. The CIA plotted to assassinate Castro using everything from exploding seashells to lethal fungus, American officials cut off almost all trade to Cuba and they financed dissidents and pro-democracy activists. But nothing worked during 11 successive administrations, from Dwight Eisenhower to Barack Obama. On December 17, , Obama announced that the US planned to renew diplomatic ties with Cuba and loosen some trade and travel restrictions. Castro had made the return of the Cuban spies an international crusade. But it was his long overshadowed younger brother who announced the news to the Cuban people. Since then, Raul Castro has pushed through economic reforms, expanding the private sector and allowing Cubans to buy and sell homes and cars. But he has not earned the same reverence as his older brother, who remains the icon of the revolution for many Cubans. His "struggle for good and equality for all" makes him "one of the great ones. Fidel is like a myth. His mother, Lina Ruz Gonzalez, was a servant. Castro went to Jesuit schools before enrolling at the University of Havana, where he was a student leader. He became a lawyer and was soon caught up in political causes aimed at toppling then-dictator Fulgencio Batista On July 26, , Castro led a disastrous attack on the Moncada Barracks in Santiago de Cuba. Half the rebels were killed and Castro was thrown in jail. At his trial, Castro condemned the Batista regime. His speech - "History Will Absolve Me" - became the manifesto of the revolution and captivated ordinary Cubans, weary of the violent, corrupt Batista regime. Journalist Marta Rojas covered the trial. Even then, she said, Castro was a skilled orator and strategic thinker. Castro and his brother Raul were found guilty and sentenced to 13 years in prison. A nice-looking young man. A tall man with light hair, fair skin. She had heard that authorities were going to escort him along Enramadas Street in Santiago de Cuba. Figueroa, now 96, and other supporters pushed for amnesty, and the Castro brothers were freed on May 16, , less than two years after the Moncada assault. Figueroa said Fidel Castro asked her to help raise money and named her treasurer. She quoted him as saying: I prefer cents from the poorest of the vendors of newspapers, vegetables or fruits in Santiago, because that unites them. That, to me, has more merit than anything. Arsenio Garcia was one of the 82 expeditionaries. He said they brought along little food other than 3, oranges. Risking capture and running short of time, Fidel Castro ordered the boat to turn around to pick up the man. No one could be left behind, he said. Garcia said the incident showed how much Castro cared about his followers. I think history will remember him as a man who gave his life for the well-being and the benefit of others. If Castro made any mistakes, Garcia said, "they were made with good intentions. Fidel never sought personal benefit. Fidel is an extremely honest man". Castro and two other fighters fled into a sugarcane field. Despite their impossible straits, Castro whispered, "We are winning. Victory will be ours. It was a day campaign to kill the guerrilla leader. He and nearly three dozen followers took refuge there. In June , US-supplied aircraft bombed the Cuban rebels. Castro wrote to his then-confidant, the late Celia Sanchez: When this war has ended, a much bigger and greater war will start for me, a war I shall launch against them. I realise that this will be my true destiny. The revolutionaries prevailed, Batista fled Cuba and Castro declared victory on January 1, Fidel is the hope of the Americas, the hope of the poor. Educational reform, he did - everything that he promised. The years have passed and Fidel continues being our great love, our father. Anti-embargo activist Bob Schwartz described him as "a giant". He was a very smart psychopath and history will not absolve him," said Humberto Capiro, 54, a residential building designer. Havana film-maker Rebeca Chavez defends Castro.

He stressed the importance of culture and education. He gave Cubans "a sense of dignity and belonging - and that helped us to resist", she said. Chavez said Castro influenced not only her work, but her life "and the lives of all Cubans". Everyone has a house". Angel Mario Gonzalez, 51, who sat nearby, recalled running into Castro while working at the Palace of Conventions in Havana. Wherever he went, he said hello, he touched you. He asked you how you were feeling, whether there were any problems. A four-hour and minute spiel in earned him the Guinness Book of Records title for the longest speech ever delivered at the UN. In June , Castro fainted two hours into a speech under the sweltering sun. He recovered, took his own pulse and decided to go back on stage. But his bodyguards had pushed him into an emergency vehicle. Cuban authorities kept details of his health secret, calling it a national security matter. In October , Castro tripped and fell after a speech, breaking his right arm and shattering his kneecap. But he quickly recovered, walking in public just two months after his fall. Dangers of nuclear war Castro never returned to politics. He wrote columns for state-run media and occasionally received guests at his home on the edge of what used to be the Havana Biltmore golf course. In his speech, he warned of the dangers of nuclear war and climate change and he urged young people to fight for world peace. On September 3, , Castro gave his last speech. It parked at the door of the house. I still have photos of that moment," Kcho said. I am one of those influenced by Fidel. And I think [his] ideas will live on forever. Al Jazeera News and News Agencies.

Under Fidel Castro, Sport Symbolized Cuba's Strength and Vulnerability Image Fidel Castro, right, at a baseball game in Havana between revolutionary Cubans.

The Landing of the Granma by J. Matthews in his book *Revolution in Cuba*. The two great problems were to train his expeditionary force and raise the money for arms and a boat on which to get to Cuba. These had to be done in the face of constant interference by the Mexican police, treachery among the Cubans, and spying by Batista agents. At one time Castro and twenty-two of his comrades spent three weeks in a Mexico City jail for illegally possessing arms. A leisure yacht named Granma was secured for the trip to Cuba. Although seaworthy, the ship was not in the best shape. Badly worn gears prevented the ship from achieving significant speed, and the radio could only receive, making it impossible to communicate with allies in Cuba. The craft was overcrowded with weapons, ammunition, and 82 soldiers. We were crouched so close together that we were almost on top of one another. On either side of us, the city slept on. It took half an hour to leave the river, and perhaps another half an hour to cross the harbor. No one had seen us, and were now entering the gulf. Everything seemed to go wrong. It had been arranged that his 26th of July followers in Santiago de Cuba would rise on November 30, the day Fidel and his band were supposed to land. There was a brave, but of course, futile uprising on November 30, with Fidel far out to sea. Our comrade was being swallowed by the deep. Never willing to give up, Fidel ordered one more search. We heard the cry "Here! The target landing spot was a town called Niquero, in Oriente province. Leaking and running days behind schedule, the Granma was spotted by a helicopter, and the rebels were forced to beach the ship at a spot called Playa de los Colorados, near the village of "Las Coloradas," about fifteen miles south of the designated spot. The new landing area was more of a swamp than a beach, and the rebels were unable to unload most of their weapons due to the muddy waters, the thick undergrowth plant life and small crabs. It would have been a walkaway. They were forced to scatter again, and most were killed in battle, or as they attempted to surrender.

Chapter 4 : Raul Castro - IMDb

The Cuban communist revolutionary and politician Fidel Castro took part in the Cuban Revolution from to Following on from his early life, Castro decided to fight for the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista's military junta by founding a paramilitary organisation, "The Movement".

Comment required May 10, 6: Sanchez made 10 attempts to escape the island, finally making it to the US in In truth, El Jefe is worth hundreds of millions and owns 20 properties, including a chalet where he goes duck hunting every year and a private marina in the Bay of Pigs. His main home is Punto Cero, where his family was kept hidden away. Alexis, Alex, Alejandro, Antonio and Angelito. Few, meanwhile, know that Fidel has had at least three children out of wedlock, including one with his personal interpreter and longtime mistress, Juanita. His simple appearance is due more to laziness than austerity. Castro, who rarely wakes before 10 a. He has his own private basketball court where he never lost a game. And his own private hospital housing two people full-time simply because they shared his blood type. There was no question of deceiving him: Fidel possessed an excellent palate that could immediately detect if the taste of milk did not correspond to that of the previous bottle. Stone cay Perhaps most extravagantly, Fidel Castro has his own secret island. Ironically, he has John F. Kennedy to thank for it. It was a complete fiasco. Fidel instantly fell in love with this place of wild beauty worthy of Robinson Crusoe and decided to have it for his own. The lighthouse keeper was asked to leave the premises and the lighthouse was put out of action and later taken down. To be precise, Cayo Piedra consists of not one island but two, a passing cyclone having split it in half. Fidel had, however, rectified this by building a foot-long bridge between the two parts. The southern island was slightly larger than its northern counterpart, and it was here, on the site of the former lighthouse, that Castro and his wife, Dalia, had built their house: While ordinary Cubans suffered, this is where Castro would relax. On the west side of the island, facing the setting sun, the Castros had built a foot-long landing stage for his personal yacht. The Aquarama II, decorated entirely in exotic wood imported from Angola, had four engines from Soviet navy patrollers, a gift from Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev. At full throttle, they propelled Aquarama II at the phenomenal, unbeatable speed of 42 knots, or about 48 miles an hour. To allow Aquarama II to dock, Fidel and Dalia had also had a half-mile-long channel dug; without this, their flotilla would not have been able to reach the island, surrounded by sand shoals. The jetty formed the epicenter of social life on Cayo Piedra. A floating pontoon, 23 feet long, had been annexed to it, and on the pontoon stood a straw hut with a bar and barbecue grill. From this floating bar and restaurant, everyone could admire the sea enclosure in which, to the delight of adults and children alike, turtles some 3 feet long were kept. On the other side of the landing stage was a dolphinarium containing two tame dolphins that livened up our daily routines with their pranks and jumps. Fidel Castro also let it be understood, and sometimes directly stated, that the revolution left him no possibility for respite or leisure and that he knew nothing about, and even despised, the bourgeois concept of vacation. Nothing could have been further from the truth. From to , I accompanied him many hundreds of times to the little paradise of Cayo Piedra, where I took part in as many fishing or underwater hunting expeditions. Castro â€¦ [claimed he] knew nothing about, and even despised, the bourgeois concept of vacation. The private life of the Comandante was the best-kept secret in Cuba. Fidel Castro has always made sure that information concerning his family is kept private, so that over the course of six decades we have learned almost nothing about the seven brothers and sisters of the Castro family. This separation between public and private life, legacy of the period when he lived in hiding, reached unimaginable proportions. None of his siblings was ever invited to or set foot on Cayo Piedra. Other than the closest family circle, in other words Dalia and their five children, those who can pride themselves on having seen the mysterious island with their own eyes are few and far between. The guest list Castro in Very logically, Fidel decided to put the work of art on the island of the same name â€¦" which is how I came to be present at that incredible scene in which two heads of state turned up on Aquarama II and disembarked in the middle of nowhere to inaugurate the statue of a forgotten figure on a deserted island, witnessed only by iguanas and pelicans. As Cuba suffers Fidel Castro was an excellent diver and loved spear fishing. The ritual on our return was immutable. The fish caught

by Dalia, who hunted separately under the protection of two combat divers, were arranged next to them, she and Fidel then reviewing the ensuing feast to the admiring, amused commentaries of their entourage. This dolce vita represented enormous privilege compared with the lifestyle of ordinary Cubans, whose already Spartan way of life had gotten considerably harder since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Subsidies from Moscow, which had maintained a certain level of prosperity, had dried up. Meanwhile, Fidel Castro sipped his whiskey on the rocks and ate fresh fish in the shade of his secret island.

Betty Viamontes was born in Havana, Cuba. In 1954, at age 15, at the height of a massive Cuban exodus from the Port of Mariel in Havana, she immigrated to the United States with her mother and siblings.

Visit Website Did you know? In 1952, Castro graduated from the University of Havana and opened a law office. Two years later, he ran for election to the Cuban House of Representatives. The election never happened, however, because Batista seized power that March. Castro responded by planning a popular uprising. The assault failed, Castro was captured and sentenced to 15 years in prison, and many of his men were killed. According to Castro, the revolutionaries started reorganizing with only two rifles. But by early 1957 they were already attracting recruits and winning small battles against Rural Guard patrols. In 1958, Batista tried to snuff out the uprising with a massive offensive, complete with air force bombers and naval offshore units. The guerrillas held their ground, launched a counterattack and wrested control from Batista on January 1, 1959. Castro arrived in Havana a week later and soon took over as prime minister. At the same time, revolutionary tribunals began trying and executing members of the old regime for alleged war crimes. This prompted the United States to end diplomatic relations and impose a trade embargo that still stands today. Their plans ended in disaster, however, partially because a first wave of bombers missed their targets and a second air strike was called off. Ultimately, more than 100,000 Cubans were killed and nearly everyone else was captured. Castro publicly declared himself a Marxist-Leninist in late 1961. By that time, Cuba was becoming increasingly dependent on the Soviet Union for economic and military support. After a day standoff, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev agreed to remove the nukes against the wishes of Castro, who was left out of the negotiations. Kennedy publicly consented not to reinvade Cuba and privately consented to take American nuclear weapons out of Turkey. Cuban Life under Castro After taking power, Castro abolished legal discrimination, brought electricity to the countryside, provided for full employment and advanced the causes of education and health care, in part by building new schools and medical facilities. But he also closed down opposition newspapers, jailed thousands of political opponents and made no move toward elections. Moreover, he limited the amount of land a person could own, abolished private business and presided over housing and consumer goods shortages. With political and economic options so limited, hundreds of thousands of Cubans, including vast numbers of professionals and technicians, left Cuba, often for the United States. From the 1960s to the 1970s, Castro supplied military and financial aid to various leftist guerilla movements in Latin America and Africa. Nonetheless, relations with many countries, with the notable exception of the United States, began to normalize. Two years later, in 1976, he permanently resigned. Castro died on November 25, 2017, at the age of 90. Castro will be laid to rest in the city of Santiago de Cuba.

Chapter 6 : The Landing of the Granma - The Castros return to Cuba,

Cuba, the forbidden country, the tropical country, has been painted in drab olive green my entire life. By the time I was born, on the second to last day of , nothing would stop Fidel Castro.

Comment required March 20, 6: While his people suffered, Fidel Castro lived in comfort – keeping everything, including his eight children, his many mistresses, even his wife, a secret. Other mistresses must be added to the tally: Juana Vera, a.k.a. Juanita, his official English-speaking interpreter and intelligence-service colonel; Gladys, the Cuban airline flight attendant who was present on foreign trips; and Pilar, a.k.a. Pili, another interpreter, this time French-speaking. He doubtless had other relationships that I did not know about. Cubans had virtually no idea about any of this. As incredible as it seems, Cubans did not see or even know of the existence of Dalia, the woman with whom he had shared his life since , until after . The physical similarity was striking between Fidel and Junior: After their honeymoon in New York, Fidel rapidly lost interest in the elegant Mirta, whom he divorced in . However, he won custody of Fidelito. In , in a memorable moment of television, the little boy appeared in his pajamas next to his father, also wearing pajamas, in a program broadcast by CBS. Fidel Castro sitting with his then-year-old son Fidel Jr. AP In this somewhat ridiculous setting, the guerrilla fighter who had just triumphed in Cuba managed to reassure American viewers: For 10 minutes, he ingeniously explained that he was not a dangerous communist but a good family man, like any other American. He married a Russian girl. What is more, Fidelito took to embezzlement. In , he was sacked from the CEAC. With her green eyes, her perfect face and her natural charm, this Havanan was considered in her day the most beautiful woman in the capital. In , Naty gave birth to Alina. As she recounts in her autobiography, at the age of 14 this budding rebel announced her intention of leaving Cuba. At the time, Fidel paid no attention, but Alina persisted in the idea when she was an adult. I remember her in the s, a pretty young woman who had become a model. Spread across its second page, Alina could be admired posing on a sailboat in a bikini, in an advertisement for Havana Club rum. The ensuing argument was the most memorable of them all: Posing in a bikini like that is unseemly! Several years went by and then, in , Fidel learned via the secret services that Alina was making serious plans to flee Cuba. Fidel immediately summoned the head of the escort, Col. Alina must not leave Cuba under any pretext or in any way. One rarely sees the Comandante allowing his anger to explode. In 17 years, I saw it only twice. Standing up, he stamped his feet on the ground while pointing his two index fingers down to his toes and waving them around. I demand a report! I want to know how all this could have happened! When I reminded her of that episode, she smiled, with that touch of sadness that can be seen in the eyes of every exile in the world. She met him in during a public event in the province of Villa Clara. As he was giving a speech in the open air, Fidel spotted in the first row a gorgeous girl with whom he rapidly started exchanging furtive and meaningful glances. Like Mirta and Naty, this stranger was a blue-eyed blonde and as slight as a ballet dancer. Fidel Castro with his wife Dalia Soto del Valle in Getty Images Fidel and Dalia would have five children, all sons, all bearing a first name beginning with the letter A: Alexis, Alex, Alejandro, Antonio, Angelito. The first three names were all variations of Alexander, the pseudonym adopted by Fidel when he was a guerrilla fighter, in homage to his admired Alexander the Great. Per month, they were entitled to five eggs per person, a pound of chicken, half a pound of fish, eight ounces of oil, black beans, powdered milk reserved for children under 7 and a loaf of bread a day. The affair Nobody knew anything about it at the time, but the low point in their relationship was reached in when Fidel found out that Dalia was cheating on him with Jorge, a member of the escort. In short, when Besteiro returned to Punto Cero and learned that his boss had gone to see La Abuela, his professional conscience obliged him to go there at once; when the grandmother opened the door, a stupefied Besteiro glimpsed Dalia dancing in the sitting room with our colleague Jorge. Castro appeared on the doorstep: Nobody asked you to come. Back in Punto Cero, he immediately went to confide in the head of the escort, Domingo Mainet. Besteiro told him what he had seen and said he was worried about finding himself on the wrong side of Dalia. The head of the escort was flabbergasted. As he and I got on extremely well, he decided to talk to me about it and ask my opinion. When he emerged, Mainet declared to me that from then on and until new orders

were received, all communication with Dalia would cease. For a month, Fidel and his escort did not set foot in Punto Cero. Fidel traveled all over the country, sleeping in several of the 20 or so houses he owned. We all thought the relationship with Dalia was over at that point, but we were wrong. After four weeks, we returned to Punto Cero without warning Dalia of our arrival “ and married life resumed its course as if nothing had happened. As for the bodyguard, Jorge, he disappeared from circulation overnight and we never heard of him again.

Chapter 7 : NPR Choice page

The agrarian reform laws of Cuba sought to break up large landholdings and redistribute land to those peasants who worked it, to cooperatives, and the state. Laws relating to land reform were implemented in a series of laws passed between and after the Cuban Revolution.

Sign up for our twice-weekly newsletter. Cuba, the forbidden country, the tropical country, has been painted in drab olive green my entire life. So say the lyrics of "Guantanamera," the de facto anthem of exiled Cubans. My mother sang that song of Cuban longing during dreary Connecticut winter afternoons. She sang it in the evening over a sink full of dishes. She sang it at glittering noisy parties that she threw with her fellow Cuban exiles. On those Saturday nights, our living room expanded and reached back to Havana. I was sure Miami Beach looked like Havana. The palm trees, the pastel colors, the sun a globe of fire suspended in the sky. Everything was on fire in Miami. And I was homesick too – homesick for a place I had never been. I recently learned there is a German word for what I felt. Homesickness for a place to which one has never been. It explains the weirdness, the disorientation that marked up my childhood. Other kids had Narnia or Never Never Land. I had Havana, imaginary, magical Havana. In Miami, my fernweh intensified. At night my Cuban relatives adjusted radios and televisions to pick up random airwaves from Cuba. Fidel speechified almost every night, and he went on for hours without taking a breath. He gripped my relatives. Grippe means the same thing in German. Perhaps the Germans can also share the word fernweh with my Cubanos. But neither was he an aberration. He wiped out illiteracy. He gave people healthcare. The word literally means someone who has no shame. You might say, that my socialismo was nothing more than a teenage rebellion. A first-generation post-Havana Cubana like me rebelled by wielding scathing politics. My mother said that my politics infected me like la grippe. By the time I went to Cuba, Fidel had just stepped down and Raul was in charge. Things had loosened up a bit. There was a small free market, but it could not compete with the black market. There were private restaurants called paladares. Speaking of sugar, here is curse a first-generation Cubanita like me heard growing up – "I should send you to Cuba to cut sugar cane, you malcriada. The only thing I knew about sugar cane was that it slashed the skin like a machete. I have it all over again when I sit with my mother in her nursing home. No more Castros in charge. Change, even if she has been dreaming about it for half-a-century, is hard for her. She may be right. The buildings are crumbling like her voice – the voice that hummed "Guantanamera" all the livelong day. Our guide told us that a gallon of paint costs a fortune. Another reflexive verb, which means things break spontaneously. Havana felt that way to me. It had simply broken. No one could fix it. Fidel and Raul were reflexive too. Their Cuba was the only Cuba I knew. Taunting Kennedy, hiding missiles, dancing the rumba with Khrushchev. The Cuba of my childhood was about hunger, hard labor, old cars and the ocean breezes my mother craved like a drug. Cuba was that place intensively loved and more intensively missed. Oh Cuba how I miss you. No matter that the Castros are no longer in charge.

Chapter 8 : Inside Fidel Castro™s luxurious life on his secret island getaway

Former Cuban dictator Fidel Castro loves milk, and especially ice cream. You could say it does a revolution good. "One Sunday, letting himself go, [Castro] finished off a good-sized lunch with.

Chapter 9 : Fidel Castro in the Cuban Revolution - Wikipedia

For 17 years, Juan Reinaldo Sanchez served as bodyguard to Fidel Castro. But when he became disillusioned with the Cuban dictator's hypocrisy and tried to retire in , Castro had him thrown.