

Waiting on Zapote Street

Love and Loss in Castro's Cuba



An award-winning novel by
Betty Viamontes

Waiting Zapote Street Love Castros

Betty Viamontes



Waiting Zapote Street Love Castros:

Waiting on Zapote Street Betty Viamontes, Zapote Street Books LLC, 2022-01-15 Rio and Laura two people from opposite backgrounds meet in Havana Cuba in January 1961 A single unselfish decision to help a stranger shatters their lives The revolution they unwittingly helped solidify creates a powerful and myopic socialist government that tears them apart Neither one of them is prepared to face the roller coaster ride their lives become Neither one of them could have imagined how much their love for each other would be tested or for how long or the impact their choices would have on their families

Waiting on Zapote Street Betty Viamontes, 2015 Winner of the Latino Books Into Movies Award Drama TV Series category an award chaired by Edward James Olmos As the winds of revolution blow through Cuba Laura Ocampo a restless university student defies her upbringing and becomes a supporter of Fidel Castro's rebels When the hated Batista flees the country she joins the thousands pouring into the streets to cheer as the bearded rebels in the backs of trucks roll into Havana in victory Laura finds true love with a handsome revolutionary named Rio and despite her family's pleas they marry and start a family But as the government becomes repressive then brutal she convinces Rio to leave Cuba while he still can She plans to follow with their children but a cruel twist of fate prevents their escape As the country deteriorates Laura must fight to protect and provide for her children while continuing to seek a way out Separated by world politics and the communist regime Rio and Laura are forced into things they had never imagined including Santeria and organized crime in order to survive The one last chance to reunite their family will be greatest test of courage Laura has ever faced 3rd column first page What are people saying about this novel From its opening shocks of loss and separation to its thrilling and emotional conclusion *Waiting on Zapote Street* gives us a front row experience of a Cuban family's hardship love and enduring love John Henry Fleming author and University of South Florida Creative Writing professor This touching narrative depicts the harrowing trials loss and separation that hit one particular family in Cuba when Castro comes to power The author demonstrates numerous layers of Cuban life and belief Judge 25th Annual Writer's Digest Self Public Book Awards We were captivated by this intimate portrayal of the impact of la revoluci n United Nations UN Women Book Club of Gulf Coast The story will take the reader on a rollercoaster ride filled with love and also anger that will test your emotions It is definitely one of the best books I've read The Latino Author *The Mango Chronicle* Ricardo José González-Rothi, 2024-05-07 In an entangled exodus to freedom during a nuclear missile crisis a young boy's Cuban Huck Finn childhood is upended After a decades long struggle with identity he transitions from refugee to good American returning to his roots for redemption He left his birthplace during a nuclear missile crisis As a refugee in a foreign land he struggles to adjust to a new set of life circumstances The author recollects his childhood in his Cuban barrio from the eyes of a child and then decades later from the vantage of a grown adult From stealing a rowboat and being nearly capsized by a Russian tanker to befriending an old fisherman who tells him a haunting tale to being bullied by a neighborhood thug to cockfights gone wrong to witnessing the

plight of political prisoners during an invasion to dealing with the injustices of growing up in a machismo and homophobic culture he led a Cuban Huck Finn childhood Arriving in a foreign land which is at times unwelcoming he struggles to assimilate while preserving his native soul Eventually he finds redemption upon circling back to his roots when he returns to the island

Love Letters from Cuba Betty Viamontes, 2021-11-23 It's the year 2021 in the middle of a worldwide pandemic when twenty-four-year-old Lena Perez discovers her grandfather's love letters She has just ended a three-year relationship with Paulo Oliveira a Brazilian ex-soccer player after realizing he will never be accepted by her Cuban American mother She feels lost Through the letters kept by the wounded Vietnam veteran Rolando Perez Lena learns about events that occurred long before her birth and took her grandfather from Cuba to the United States and Vietnam Through these letters she is able to peel the layers of who she is learning about where her family comes from uncovering secrets and finding who she will become In her newest novel award-winning author Betty Viamontes uses the first person narrative and brilliantly exploits the epistolary approach As in her prior works she continues to describe life in Cuba The novel is set in present day and is full of surprises that will keep you guessing what will happen next Susana Jimenez Mueller storyteller and podcaster author of *Now I Swim* and *The Green Plantain* The Cuban Stories Project podcast About the Author Betty Viamontes was born in Havana Cuba When Betty was fifteen she and her family crossed the Florida Straits in an overcrowded shrimp boat on a stormy night when many families perished This trip would reunite the family with Betty's father in the United States after twelve years of separation Betty completed graduate studies at the University of South Florida Upon her mother's death Betty began to dedicate her life to capturing stories of people without a voice Her stories have traveled the world from the award-winning *Waiting on Zapote Street* to the No. 1 newest releases *The Pedro Pan Girls* and *The Girl from White Creek* Betty has published nine books including the novel she wrote to fulfill the promise she made to her mother before she died Despite Betty's mother's battle with cancer she witnessed many of Betty's accomplishments However she was not able to see the publication of *Waiting on Zapote Street* her story In 2018 actor Edward James Olmos announced that *Waiting on Zapote Street* had been a winner of the Latino Books Into Movies Award The Latino Author website also lists this autobiographical novel as one of the best ten books of 2016 and in 2017 and again in 2020 it became an Amazon bestseller in its category after being selected by a United Nations women's book club and multiple others Betty's life has been filled with many challenges but she managed to survive those challenges and help others along the way Betty hopes that as long as someone reads her mother's story her spirit her determination and the love she gave to all she met will go on forever She also hopes to preserve the history of the Cuban people Circumstances Cuba DNA results Exile Family History Love Letters Grandfathers Granddaughters Relationships Second Chances

The Girl from White Creek Betty Viamontes, 2021-09-19 From the award-winning author of *Waiting on Zapote Street* winner of the Latino Books Into Movies award This epic tale based on true events transports readers to the province of Camagüey in the Cuban heartland In 1955 the seeds of Castro's revolution will lead a small town's

inhabitants to witness a radical change to their customs and their way of life The town Arroyo Blanco White Creek known for the creeks that run through its core filling it with life is destined to be erased by time and politics Madeline a young girl swept up by political and social upheaval struggles for survival and to protect everything she knows Will Madeline find love and fulfillment or will forces beyond her control sweep away all remnants of who she is *The Dance of the Rose* Betty Viamontes,2023-06-10 From the author of the award winning *Waiting on Zapote Street* Rio reunites with his wife Laura and their children in the United States after a forced separation that lasted eleven years However they are no longer the people they once were How to reconstitute the family when time has changed them so much The daughters are now teenagers and the son is eleven Rio has a dark past that Laura is just starting to uncover None of them are prepared to face the obstacles that stand in their way

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