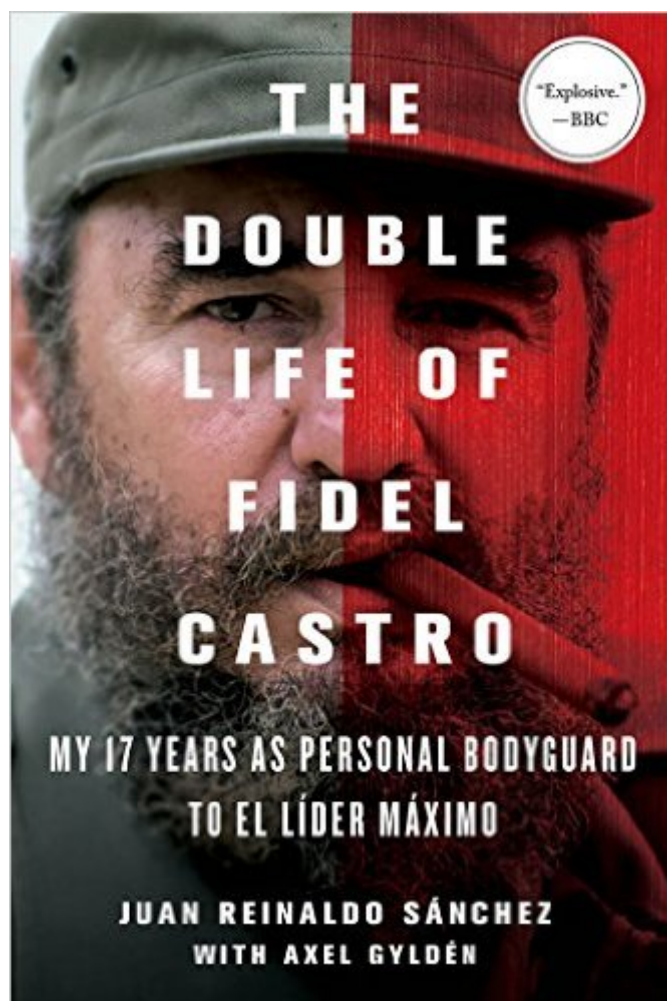


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The Double Life Of Fidel Castro: My 17 Years As Personal Bodyguard To El Lider Maximo



Synopsis

In *The Double Life of Fidel Castro*, one of Castro's soldiers of seventeen years breaks his silence and shares his memoirs of his years of service, his eventual imprisonment and torture for displeasing the notorious dictator, and his dramatic escape from Cuba. Responsible for protecting the *Líder Máximo* for two decades, Juan Reinaldo Sánchez was party to his secret life: from the ghost town in which guerrillas from several continents were trained; to Castro's immense personal fortune, including a huge property portfolio, a secret paradise island, and seizure of public money; as well as his relationship with his family and his nine children from five different partners. Sánchez's tell-all exposé reveals countless state secrets and the many sides of the Cuban monarch: genius war leader in Nicaragua and Angola, paranoid autocrat at home, master spy, Machiavellian diplomat, and accomplice to drug traffickers. This extraordinary testimony makes us reexamine everything we thought we knew about the Cuban story and Fidel Castro Ruz.

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Customer Reviews

He's not dead yet, although old, frail and retired from power. He's probably enjoying what he sees as vindication of a half century of struggle by a craven U.S. president who has caved to open relations with Cuba while having received no significant human rights concessions in return. It makes me sick to even think about it. It betrays the risks of a million people who braved shark-filled waters to escape the island prison known as Cuba. This book tells who Fidel Castro really is, as one of his closest bodyguards saw him. And what Juan Sanchez saw is a hero of the Revolution who is

effectively a billionaire (one estimate put his net worth at \$900 million), living in great luxury in a dirt-poor country heâ™s turned into a police state while preaching revolution and anti-materialism and equality. Fidel is the Kim Jong Un of the Caribbean. Sanchez notes, though, that Castro held dictators like North Koreaâ™s Kims in contempt because they were so inept politically. Theyâ™re seen as clowns, but Castro made himself the darling of the Third World and the radical left and the socialists and the intellectuals. Castro owns around 20 homes. Included is an island retreat so secret virtually no one outside of his inner circle even knew about it. It is a hideaway for him and his family â“ a family so secret hardly anyone knew about them either, his second wife and five kids â“ on a previously uninhabited key a few miles off the Cuban coast. Castro sport-fished nearly every day. Fishing trips wouldnâ™t end until heâ™d caught more fish than his companions of the day, even if they all had to fish until 3 a.m. for him to do it.

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