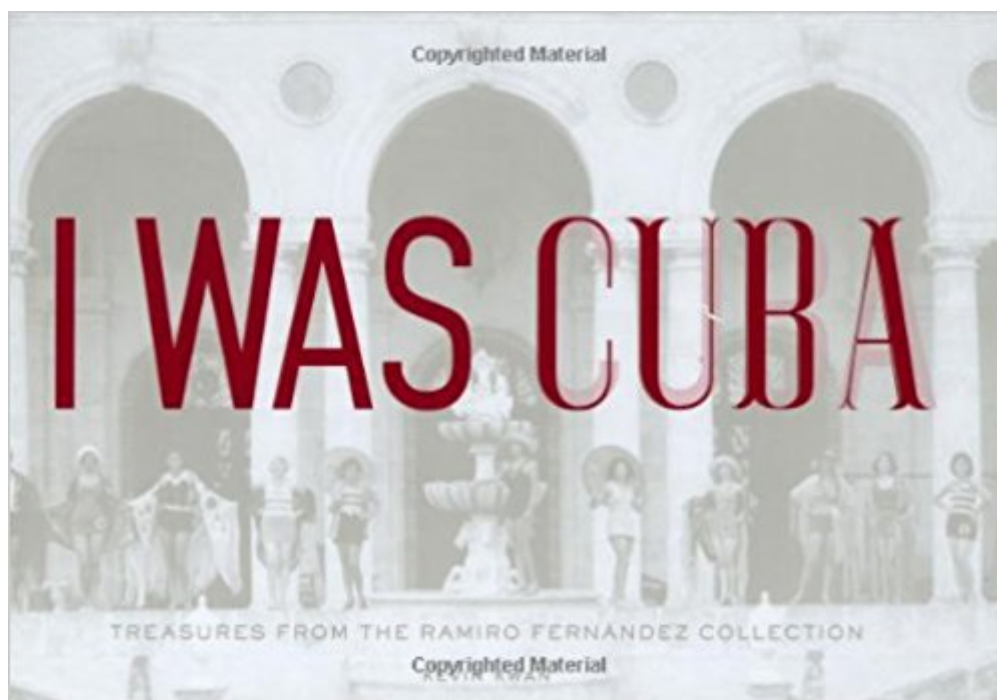


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I Was Cuba: Treasures From The Ramiro Fernandez Collection



Synopsis

While most think of Cuba as a mythical island of rum, rumba, and revolution, period photographs reveal a more complex place. *I Was Cuba* is an original look at Cuban history as seen through the Ramiro Fernandez Collection arguably the world's leading archive of Cuban photos and ephemera. *I Was Cuba* showcases rare, vernacular images from the nineteenth century through the revolutionary period, exploring the everyday and the eccentric. With texts from famed Cuban writer Reinaldo Arenas (*Before Night Falls*), this captivating volume is an intimate view into a bygone era of glamour, political upheaval, and astounding visual culture.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Kevin Kwan creates books with some of the world's leading artists, designers and institutions. He has produced acclaimed visual books for Oprah Winfrey, Gore Vidal, David Rockwell and Elizabeth Taylor, to name a few. In 2004, he produced *Presenting Celia Cruz*, the celebrated photography tribute to Cuba's "Queen of Salsa." Peter Castro is the managing editor of *People Magazine*. Ramiro Fernandez was born in Havana to a family involved in the pharmaceutical industry. He left Cuba in 1960, settling first in Palm Beach County and then in New York, where he was a photography editor at Time Inc. for 25 years, working for such titles as *Entertainment Weekly*, *Sports Illustrated*, *People*, and *People En Espaol*. He is currently the Photography Director for *Americas Quarterly*. Fernandez first began to collect at the suggestion of his grandmother, who foresaw the coming turmoil and urged him to collect images of a Cuba that was

fast disappearing. As a witness to the revolution in his youth, Fernandez's consuming passion has been to build a collection that can serve as a testament to the Cuba he remembers.

I was Cuba: Treasures from the Ramiro Fernandez Collection. Nice little book, Binding isn't as good, Photos are superb except a few. The photographs that do not belong are a heartwarming (NOT to me) photo of the Massmurderers Che (With his daughter), Fidel with his Son, and a couple others of Fidel and "revolutionaries" and Raul. Although the Reasoning according to The author for the interview in this book is because he felt the photography should be included despite his opposition. I believe it could be to placate the San Francisco Based Publisher of the book, Chronicle. There are some wonderful photos in here, I Love the Cuba Grand Prix racing pictures and the Sagua To Habana rally Race pictures. They should have made the binding better for the book if you are not careful it can come off the spine somewhat even if new and packed right. There is a follow up to the book which I will add, Overall I wish there would have been Pictures of Grau and Prio but it is a collection from the Author/compiler.

Provocative photos from pre-1959 Cuba, which shows a glimpse of what life was there when it wasn't a prison camp. This is a good photo documentary that shows that Cuba was a beautiful and delightful country, not the Mafia run B-Movie that Hollywood so often portrays. Get this book, snowflakes, and get an education on history...

Gorgeous pictures! I love pictures and this is what this book is about. Truly shows the real Cuba. I've always been intrigued by Cuba because my relatives on my dad's side used to go all the time with the Newport, Ky group of mafia. I will eventually go someday. They talked of the people, places to eat, colors, dedication of the people who owned the American cars to keep them in perfect shape. I just was mesmerized by their talk. A lot of their talk is in the 'I Was Cuba' book, that's why I like it so very much. My aunt would walk by the beautiful beaches and go into the homes of the citizens, they made them so welcome. The buildings were large and as I could tell, built by people who cared about them. Just a lovely island in the Atlantic ocean.

This tidy little volume is worth much more than it costs. The nicely embossed cover has a "quality" feel, and the pictures deliver a unique experience. I bought this as a birthday gift for the father of my fiancée -- he's visited Cuba on a business basis (he's in an industry that IS allowed to do limited biz with the island's current regime). Anyway, he was delighted. This brilliantly chosen photo collection

illuminates a Cuba that no longer exists. The thing to remember is, the "lost" Cuba is not dead, just slumbering beneath the surface of the modern Communist state. The Cuban past caught in these pix explains a lot of the present reality; it may be VERY relevant to the near future, when Castro is gone and Cuba's mixed history and modern experience recombine. Highly recommended. P.S. - I also bought, and he also loved, *Es Cuba* - *Es Cuba: Life and Love on an Illegal Island*, a nicely written love-and-hate story of contradictions in contemporary Cuban life.

I Was Cuba: Treasures from the Ramiro Fernandez Collection This book contains an amazing collection of old photographs that essentially cover the entire island. It is a real TREASURE. The selection of images is excellent; subjects are representative of 'times gone by'. I have gifted the book to individuals who lived in Cuba and are familiar with many of the places included in the collections of photos. The response has been extremely positive. The author deserves credit for such a good selection of subjects, relatively good images -considering the time that has passed. Younger persons have also enjoyed a 'virtual visit' to a country that is out of bounds for most people.

Gave this and *Cuba Then* to my mother for Mother's day. Too bad that the captions were in the back of the book, making it difficult for her to leaf back and forth, due to her age and Parkinson's disease. Still, she was overjoyed with the beautiful photos within.

Excellent book of photos both old and new of Cuba. Very romantic subject matter, well presented. Good buy especially at the low price offered this at when I bought it.

Really beautiful collection of photos that I had no idea were part of Cuba's history. My dad loved this!

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