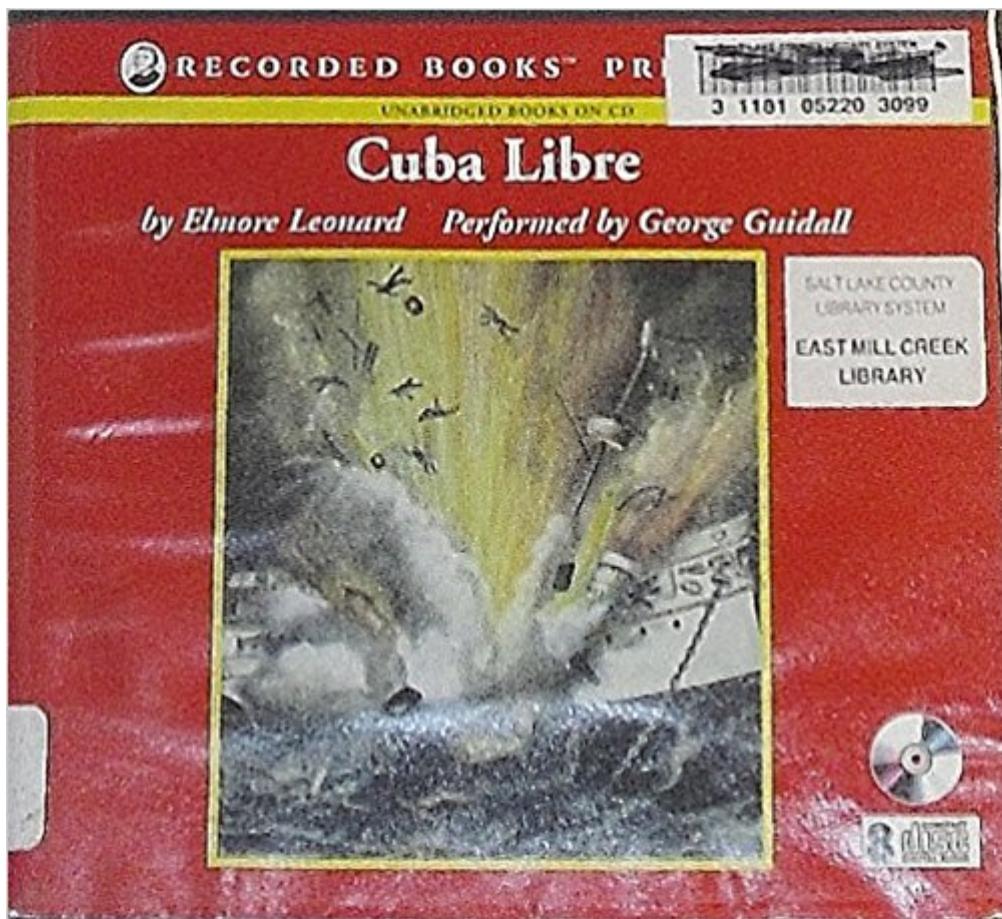


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Cuba Libre



Synopsis

On a hot night in Havana Harbor, U.S. marines sleep on the deck of the USS Maine as the sound of rumba music drifts across the water. Then, in a flash, the Maine is blown to pieces. Now a bloody carnival of war, nations, and schemers is exploding on the dusty, sugar-rich island of Cuba. Master storyteller Elmore Leonard breaks new ground in this rip-roaring novel, a rollicking jaunt into history that sizzles with the passion of lovers, the violence of nations, and the courage of freedom fighters crying out to their firing squads: "Viva Cuba Libre!" --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Recorded Books Inc (January 1, 1998)

ISBN-10: 0788744666

ISBN-13: 978-0788744662

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 6.1 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (96 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #5,546,896 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (L) > Leonard, Elmore #24319 inÂ Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > General #156973 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical

Customer Reviews

Elmore Leonard's "Cuba Libre" bears an inapt title. "Cuba Libre" implies that Leonard has created some of his trademark cowboys and thieves getting caught up in a political revolution. To a certain extent that's true, as the book indeed has some classic Leonardesque characters, and there is a revolution in the wake of the U.S.S. Maine being blown up, but the war that racks the Cuban countryside rarely rises above an inconvenience (or an opportunity) for Leonard's cast of ne'er-do-wells. Fortunately, a possibly inapt title is a forgivable sin. We read Mr. Leonard's novels for their wicked dialogue and hard-edged yet open-hearted heroes (along with the hard-edged and hard-hearted villains). "Cuba Libre" has these traits in spades. Ostensibly the "hero" of the tale, Ben Tyler runs both horses and guns to Cuba on the eve of the Maine's destruction. The imminent war sets devious wheels a-turning, as does Tyler's instant infatuation with Amelia, a spoiled rich girl from New Orleans. Problem is, Amelia's beau is Rollie Boudreaux, an amoral business tycoon from America who uses ruthlessness to advance both his business and romantic interests. Leonard's characters hop-scotch through a byzantine plot that involves robbery, murder, kidnapping, extortion,

torture, false imprisonment, jailbreaks, political revolution, and more than a wee bit of plain old thievery. Along the way, our heroes and villains meet other characters of unknown morals but a well-demonstrated ability to kill at the drop of a hat. For Tyler, it is easy to come to Cuba having never killed a man only to discover that he has quite the talent for it.

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