

The background features a complex network of white nodes connected by thin purple lines, set against a gradient background that transitions from dark purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The nodes are scattered across the frame, with some forming distinct geometric shapes like triangles and polygons. The overall aesthetic is modern and digital.

When We Left Cuba

Written by Chanel Cleeton

Published by sanmarco-sf

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When We Left Cuba

When We Left Cuba

By Chanel Cleeton

When We Left Cuba

In 1960s Florida, a young Cuban exile will risk her life--and heart--to take back her country in this exhilarating historical novel from the author of *Next Year in Havana*, a Reese Witherspoon Book Club pick.

When We Left Cuba

When We Left Earth

Beautiful. Daring. Deadly.

When We Left Cuba Reviews

The Cuban Revolution took everything from sugar heiress Beatriz Perez--her family, her people, her country. Recruited by the CIA to infiltrate Fidel Castro's inner circle and pulled into the dangerous world of espionage, Beatriz is consumed by her quest for revenge and her desire to reclaim the life she lost.

When We Left Earth The Explorers

As the Cold War swells like a hurricane over the shores of the Florida Strait, Beatriz is caught between the clash of Cuban American politics and the perils of a forbidden affair with a powerful man driven by ambitions of his own. When the ever-changing tides of history threaten everything she has fought for, she must make a choice between her past and future--but the wrong move could cost Beatriz everything--not just the island she loves, but also the man who has stolen her heart...

"I am nothing if not a scandal." Beatriz is one of the Perez daughters - known for their fame and fortune in their homeland, Cuba.

But they were forced to flee due to the revolution. And though her family has settled in Florida, and her father is bent on reforming the Perez family fortune, Beatriz cannot help but long for the life she left behind. "They said you ruled like a queen in Havana." Beatriz becomes consumed with the near-impossible goal - to destroy Fidel Castro.

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But they were forced to flee due to the revolution. And though her family has settled in Florida, and her father is bent on reforming the Perez family fortune, Beatriz cannot help but long for the life she left behind. "They said you ruled like a queen in Havana." Beatriz becomes consumed with the near-impossible goal - to destroy Fidel Castro.

But making plans and executing them are two different things. ...you're too young, too pretty, too sheltered to understand the world around you...your worth only lies in you beauty and what they can barter for it." Beatriz manages to find contacts, ones who see eye-to-eye with her aspirations in the United States. She manages to become part of the CIA. "If I don't succeed, then they kill me. I assure you, I'm aware of the stakes. I wouldn't volunteer for this if I wasn't." The Cold War hovers at the edge of the horizon, Castro's power grows ever stronger...

Beatriz is set on her path to revenge...and yet...there is a man. A man who is Irritatingly beautiful. A man who exceeds all her expectations, one who is everything she is not and one who represents everything she cannot have. "Because I think of you. Constantly. Because I wonder what it would be like to kiss you. For you to be mine, even for a moment." One false move could cost everything - her country, her love, her life. "It's dangerous, Beatriz."

"I know." Wow. I am still reeling!

This one has such a different feel from the first novel but was still so enrapturing.

When We Left Cuba

I feel like the author really did a fabulous job embodying such a complex character. Beatriz has such a different feel from Marisol/Elise from the first novel.

Beatriz (Elise's sister), began as a rich, spoiled girl in the first novel but she grew and developed wonderfully in this novel.

She may be high maintenance but she loved her country with all her heart, and was willing to do anything to protect it. She teetered between being fully independent and curling in on herself, wanting to hide from the world.

I loved watching the transformation of her character and the way she asserted herself (in a time where such assertions were wholly unexpected). And suddenly, I cannot take it anymore, and I rise... The love story arced beautifully. Normally, I have issue when the love relies on passion and barely suppressed emotions, but Cleeton brings that about realistically. In another life, we might have been magnificent together. I do think that the pacing was a bit slow at times, especially with some of the detours into the intricacies in the Perez sisters' lives...but the imagery does make up for that.

Overall, this is more of a companion novel than the sequel I expected - but all in all, I am more than satisfied with this experience. I'm so excited for Cleeton's next novel!

With thanks to the author and the publishing company for sending me a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

All quotes come from an uncorrected proof and are subject to change upon publication. ...more

When We Left Earth Streaming

Political intrigue, history, wanting to know more about Cuba, and a love story were the things that attracted me to this book, as well as the fact that I enjoyed *Next Year in Havana*. It moved a little slowly at first. I didn't feel immersed until a third of the way in and then I was taken in. I remembered that Beatriz Perez was Marisol's great Aunt and Elisa's sister from the previous book, but I don't remember much more about her from the first novel. She turns out to be a spirited, independent woman, who seems beyond her time in that she won't follow her family's wishes when it comes to a woman's place in society - that our parents consider marriage to be the final goal for us, our success ties to the men we catch rather than our own merits. She follows her own heart, falling in love with a man, already engaged. Motivated by a desire to avenge her brother's murder before they left Cuba and to avenge her family's loss of home and fortune, she becomes involved with the CIA and wants to do whatever it takes to kill Castro.

In a note, Cleeton says "While the Perez family and their friends are entirely fictional, the events in the novel were inspired by the tumultuous Cuban-American relations in the 1960s." She does a great job of depicting historical events of the 1960s such as The Bay of Pigs, the Cuban Missile Crisis and Kennedy's assassination through the lives of these characters. I have to admit that Beatriz's involvement in the CIA was a bit much for me at times as I am not a spy thriller reader and there were shades of that here. Having said that, I loved her character and admired her strength and independence. As in the first novel, I felt the author's connection to the story through her heritage. I loved that the buried box appears here too. An engaging story.

This was a *Traveling Sisters* read.

I received an advanced copy of this book from Berkley Books through NetGalley. ...more

4.75 Intriguing and Suspenseful Stars!

Beatriz Perez wants nothing more than to return to Cuba. Having been exiled to Florida after the Cuban Revolution is not what she had in mind. She has no interest in being a debutante like her sisters, nor does she have any interest in marriage. For Beatriz, the loss of her twin brother Alejandro, is excruciating thus all she wants is revenge. When the CIA recruits her as a spy, she jumps at the chance hoping that she can make Castro pay.

What Beatriz doesn't 4.75 Intriguing and Suspenseful Stars!

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When We Left Cuba

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What Beatriz doesn't count on, is meeting Nick, who captures every fiber of her being, and whose life is the exact opposite of hers. How will Beatriz's need for revenge coincide with her need for a man she can't get enough of?

"When We Left Cuba" captured my attention from the very first. Beatriz is both brilliant and hilarious, as well as bold and fearless. She will do whatever it takes to get what she wants. I liked her immediately and got wrapped up in this spy game, as well as the story of family, love, intrigue and vengeance. While I loved the character of Beatriz, I adored the character of Eduardo as well and would love to find out more about him one of these days (hint hint)!

"When We Left Cuba" is the second book in the Perez family series by Chanel Cleeton, with "Next Year in Havana" being the first. While I liked "Next Year in Havana" - I absolutely LOVE Beatriz Perez's story. I found her to be compelling, funny, intelligent and sassy. Perhaps it is her independence or her ability to face danger so willingly, whatever it is about her, it grabbed me. Here, Chanel Cleeton does an incredible job intertwining Cuban History with American History all the while creating a suspenseful, romantic read. I highly recommend this to fans of historical fiction and those who love reading a good espionage story.

Kudos also to Ms. Cleeton for the gorgeous cover! What a way to draw readers in.

A huge thank you to Elisha at Berkley Publishing Group and to Chanel Cleeton for a galley of this novel in exchange for an honest review.

Published on Goodreads on 12.11.18.

Will be published on Amazon and Twitter on release date.

Excerpt to be published on Instagram. ...more

When We Left Earth Landing The Eagle

A stunning and intriguing follow-up! • • • • •

Beatriz Perez lost everything during the Cuban Revolution, including her family and her home, her beloved Cuba. The CIA recruits her to get close to Fidel Castro and his comrades.

Now a spy, Beatriz is thirsty with revenge for all she's lost. The Cold War is in full swing when Beatriz finds herself in love with power hungry man; a clandestine affair, and she knows it.

Beatriz comes to a crossroads where she must choose between everything she holds dear. A stunning and intriguing follow-up! • • • • •

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Now a spy, Beatriz is thirsty with revenge for all she's lost. The Cold War is in full swing when Beatriz finds herself in love with power hungry man; a clandestine affair, and she knows it.

Beatriz comes to a crossroads where she must choose between everything she holds dear from her past and her hopeful, possibly steadfast future. Can she let Cuba go?

When We Left Cuba is full of unexpected intrigue! I was on the edge of my seat with worry about Beatriz. One of the strongest aspects of the novel is its sense of time and place. Be prepared to be transported because you will be whisked away. The historical aspects are strong as well and seamlessly woven in. Of course, I have to mention the romance, which successfully amped up the suspense.

Overall, When We Left Cuba is a formidable woman's story of moving beyond a tragedy and seeking revenge but also balancing her desire for love at the same time. Will love or vengeance be the victor here?

I received a complimentary copy. All opinions are my own.

My reviews can also be found on my blog: www.jennifertarheelreader.com

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Beatriz Perez lives in exile in Palm Beach, Florida with her family, but Cuba forever lives in her heart. The family fled during the Cuban Revolution and they lost their family home and successful sugar field business. They are safe, but Beatriz has anger and revenge on her mind. She isn't one to forget the past.

When We Left Cuba

Beatriz as a strong, independent and beautiful young woman and is known for catching the eye of many and is known to collect marriage proposals .

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She is approached by the CIA and agrees to help them, but she is not a trained spy. Things could easily go wrong. Has she gotten in over her head? Could she possibly turn the head of Fidel Castro or catch his eye? Many believe she can.

Some cliff-hanger chapters steeped in suspense, a politically flavored romance and plenty of historic details made this one easy to pick up and hard to put down.

Recommend to fans of Cleeton's debut novel, *Next Year in Havana* and those who enjoy historical fiction with a bit of glamour and suspense.

Thank you Berkley and NG for my review copy! Out on April 9,2019

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When We Left Earth Soundtrack

4.5 stars, rounded up

When We Left Cuba picks up in time after Next Year in Havana. The Perez family, part of the Cuban sugar aristocracy, has landed in Palm Beach after the Cuban Revolution. Once again, Cleeton does a great job of combining an engaging story with a real feel for the time and place. This is historical fiction done right. Cleeton knows how to weave historic facts into the story in a seamless manner.

This sequel focuses on a different Perez daughter. Driven by revenge, Beatriz Per 4.5 stars, rounded up

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This sequel focuses on a different Perez daughter. Driven by revenge, Beatriz Perez makes contact with the CIA in an effort to return to Cuba and assassinate Castro. "It's strange to realize someone is your nemesis, and yet to them, you are little more than a faint murmur in the background of their lives."

NYIH employed the two storyline, dual time frame approach. Here, it's a single story, straightforward approach, which I prefer. And while there is romance, it is not the whole story, far from it. We get politics, espionage, family and social issues as well.

Beatriz is a fully formed character. Young, but in some ways an old soul because of what she has lived through. Although having written that, at times her recklessness made her age very much apparent. The two men in her life, Nick and Eduardo, were equally well formed and interesting, diverse characters.

I loved NYIH, but I think I preferred this book.

My thanks to netgalley and Berkley Books for an advance copy of this novel. ...more

4.5 stars

I always find there is nothing better than reading a book that connects you to a time you so well remember. Such was the case in this wonderfully written story that Chancel Cleeton constructed for her readers.

This story takes us into the life and times of Beatriz Perez, a strong willed, beautiful, independent woman who possesses great love and feelings for her native land. Her wish is to see Cuba become the place of beauty, family, and one that her memories so want it to be. However, 4.5 stars

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When We Left Cuba

place of beauty, family, and one that her memories so want it to be. However, this is the time of the advent of Castro, coming into power after the tyrannical reign of Baptiste. Beatriz wants to go home again, but the times thwart her heart's desire.

She is beautiful, desired by many men, but she falls in love with a "Kennedyesque" senator, and their relationship, though loving and torrid for the times, only seems to be able to bring Beatriz pain, longing, and loneliness. Recruited by the CIA, she is determined to fight for her Cuba in any way she can even to the ultimate of murder and death. Her life becomes one of clandestine times with the Senator and plotting for the overthrow of Castro.

One can not help but admire Beatriz as she is driven to try and recapture what was once hers and her family's. This story was told with the backdrop of the times, Kennedy as President, the Bay of Pigs failed attempt, the plight of the Cuban people both here and in Cuba, and the Missile crisis added such relevance and poignancy to this book. It was a time I so remember as the threat of nuclear destruction hung about our days and made the news reels each night scaring those who watched.

Chancel Cleeton did a most admirable job weaving the story infused with so much historical significance with the life of Beatriz. I recommend this story most highly for its authenticity and its ability to present so well the wonderful ability of strength and resilience that so many woman of that time possessed. A special thanks to Susanne who sent this book to me after I mentioned I so wanted to read it. ...more

When We Left Earth Blu Ray

An exceptional story about an extraordinary woman! A book rich with love and steeped in history!

Beatriz Perez my queen! There was something about Beatriz that completely captured my heart from the very first page of this book. She was a smart, strong, and sassy woman with an unbreakable spirit and an unstoppable independence. This is a follow-up of sorts to, "Next Year in Havana", although I'd say you could read this book independently. We do meet Beatriz in the first book (it is the story of her sister Elisa) however Beatriz is on the periphery of that story. Both books are exquisite, however I have to admit I like this book a teeny bit more.

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Beatriz might live in the US now, but her heart is still in Cuba. Her family was exiled to the US after Fidel Castro took power in Cuba. Beatriz was the privileged daughter of a sugar baron, she lived a glamorous life filled with parties and glitz. Then her life was turned upside down, she lost her twin brother during the uprising, her family loses all their wealth, and her family is sent away from the land that they loved. Beatriz now has to start over in a new country. Consumed with revenge and a desire to return "home" she finds herself entangled with the CIA. She also meets a man. A man who is off-limits, a man who will completely capture and consume her. We experience the US-Cuba relationship during the 1960s through the pages of this book. We see the Bay of Pigs, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the JFK assassination through Beatriz's eyes. This book is a true love story, a woman's love for a country and a man.

Chanel Cleeton's vivid writing will transport you to the 1960s. The feel and the fear at the beginning of the Cold War seeps through the pages. The historical aspects of this book are compelling, but I have to say the romance wormed its way into my heart. Beatriz Nick's Love story was so raw, I really can't think of any other word to describe it. A forbidden love that broke them both and then built them up again. It's all about Fate and timing and all that.

This was a spellbinding story packed with romance and history in a cloak of intrigue! Unequivocally recommend!

*** many thanks to Berkley for my copy of this book *** ...more

If you enjoyed the historical fiction novel, Next Year in Havana, you'll want to check this one out as it

When We Left Cuba

features Beatriz Perez. I'm so glad the author decided to write a book about her because she's a fascinating character. Really liked this one as it had a little bit of everything including romance, espionage, and family drama. While this book could be read as standalone novel, I highly recommend checking out the previous book so you can get a better understanding of not just Beatriz but also her family and everything that took place in Cuba. If you enjoyed the historical fiction novel, Next Year in Havana, you'll want to check this one out as it features Beatriz Perez. I'm so glad the author decided to write a book about her because she's a fascinating character. Really liked this one as it had a little bit of everything including romance, espionage, and family drama. While this book could be read as standalone novel, I highly recommend checking out the previous book so you can get a better understanding of not just Beatriz but also her family and everything that took place in Cuba.

It's the 1960s and Beatriz and the Perez family are living in Florida after the Cuban Revolution forced them to leave everything behind in Cuba. Beatriz has a lot of anger towards the man responsible for all of the turmoil in her home country, Fidel Castro, and so she agrees to work as a spy for the CIA and infiltrate Castro's inner circle. She soon gets quite an education on the dirty side of politics for both countries and also manages to get caught up in a forbidden love affair. It's fair to say she will be forced to make a lot of tough choices, some with lasting consequences.

I was slightly worried before reading this that it was going to read too much like a spy novel, which isn't really my thing. However, while Beatriz working for the CIA is definitely part of the story, there are other facets of her life that are explored as well. Overall there really was a nice balance to the story. I was drawn the most to Beatriz and her love life but I also enjoyed learning some of the historical facts regarding what was going on between Cuba and the United States during this time. It was also nice to revisit characters from the previous book.

Definitely an enjoyable read and I would love to see the author continue on with featuring Perez family members in future books.

Thank you to First to Read for the free advance digital copy! I was under no obligation to post a review and all views expressed are my honest opinion.

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When We Left Earth Friends And Rivals

Intriguing, suspenseful, glamorous & magnetic!

WHEN WE LEFT CUBA by CHANEL CLEETON is an engaging, fascinating, entertaining, beautifully crafted and rich historical fiction novel that I thoroughly enjoyed. I was immediately drawn into our main characters life, Beatriz Perez and loved the romantic & adventurous journey that this book took me on. The author's passion and knowledge definitely shines through tenfold and where some of the content was missed by me I totally appreciated learning about this part of Cuban and American history. Intriguing, suspenseful, glamorous & magnetic!

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I didn't have the pleasure of reading and visiting the Perez family in the NEXT YEAR IN HAVANA before reading this novel WHEN WE LEFT CUBA. And normally I tend to shy away from reading follow-up books out of sequence order because it somehow makes me feel like I'm missing out or cheating the system. So with that being said I am definitely going to revisit the Perez family again but in the meantime I am so glad that I put all of my feelings aside and dove right into this fabulously written romantic & dashing tale of espionage, revenge, love, & family drama.

Even though this is a follow-up and some of the characters are revisited here this is Beatriz's story and definitely works and reads well as a standalone.

This was a Traveling Sisters group read.

Norma's Stats:

Cover: Strikingly beautiful, glamorous, gorgeous, appealing and a fitting representation to storyline.

Love the cover art!

Title: Intriguing, fascinating, powerful and a wonderful representation to storyline.

Writing/Prose: Beautifully written, passionate, knowledgeable, fluid, engaging and entertaining.

Absolutely loved the writing style!

Plot: Intriguing, informative, fascinating, thought-provoking, fast-paced, atmospheric and entertaining.

Ending: A pat and happy ending that was very satisfying and pleasing. I have a fondness for Epilogues!

Overall: A fun, tense and exciting read with fabulous characters filled with rich historical content. Would highly recommend!

Thank you so much to Elisha at Berkley Publishing and Chanel Cleeton for the opportunity to read an

When We Left Cuba

ARC of this book in exchange for a review.

Review can also be found on our blog:

<https://twosisterslostinaCoulee.com> ...more

4.5 stars

In her first book about the Perez family, *Next Year in Havana*, author Chanel Cleeton had introduced us to Beatriz Perez, Marisol Ferrara's great-aunt and also older sister to Elisa Perez. Even though the focus of that story was on Marisol and Elisa, with Beatriz playing only a supporting role, I still remember quite vividly Beatriz's strong, spirited, defiant personality – in fact, she was one of my favorite characters from that story so of course, I was absolutely ecstatic to learn t 4.5 stars

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One of the biggest draws to this book for me was the character of Beatriz Perez herself – a wonderfully written character who was at once complex, intriguing, and absolutely unforgettable. I loved her sassiness, her independent spirit, her boldness in following her heart and not caring what others thought of her or her actions, her open defiance of convention and refusal to conform to what society and her parents expected of her (which was to marry someone rich and well-connected, have children, and fade into the role of demure housewife). Beautiful, smart, funny, willful, and headstrong, Beatriz was the type of person who wanted to be recognized and respected for her own merits, who

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valued her own independence and freedom and making her own way in the world, who wanted to shape her own destiny and not be a woman needing to be “taken care of” by a man or whose worth in the world could only be defined by the merits and achievements of her significant other. At the same time, she was also a woman who knew how to love passionately, fearlessly, boldly, devotedly, yet still be able to approach the same relationship with pragmatism and discernment. In her Author’s Note, Cleeton mentioned that after introducing Beatriz’s character in *Next Year in Havana*, she had to stop halfway through drafting that novel in order to write the first chapter of this book because Beatriz’s story “was pushing its way out, demanding to be told” – that’s exactly how I felt about Beatriz even before I started reading her story!

Once again, Cleeton does a fantastic job of seamlessly melding historical events with a captivating story while at the same time giving us beautifully drawn, imperfect characters whom we can’t help falling in love with as the story progresses. While it’s not required to have read the first novel in order to appreciate this one, I would still recommend reading *Next Year in Havana* prior to going into this one because of the background it provides in terms of the Perez family and what happened to them during the revolution in Cuba. I enjoyed revisiting some of the characters from the previous story and also seeing how perfectly the timelines from both stories aligned. I’m not sure if Cleeton’s next historical novel (which, according to the note at the back of this book, is scheduled to come out in Winter 2020) will also be about the Perez family, but even if it’s not, given how much I loved her last 2 novels, no doubt I am still highly anticipating its release. Historical fiction fans definitely should pick both of these novels up, especially those who are interested in better understanding Cuban history and its role on the world stage.

Received ARC from Berkley Books via Penguin First to Read program ...more