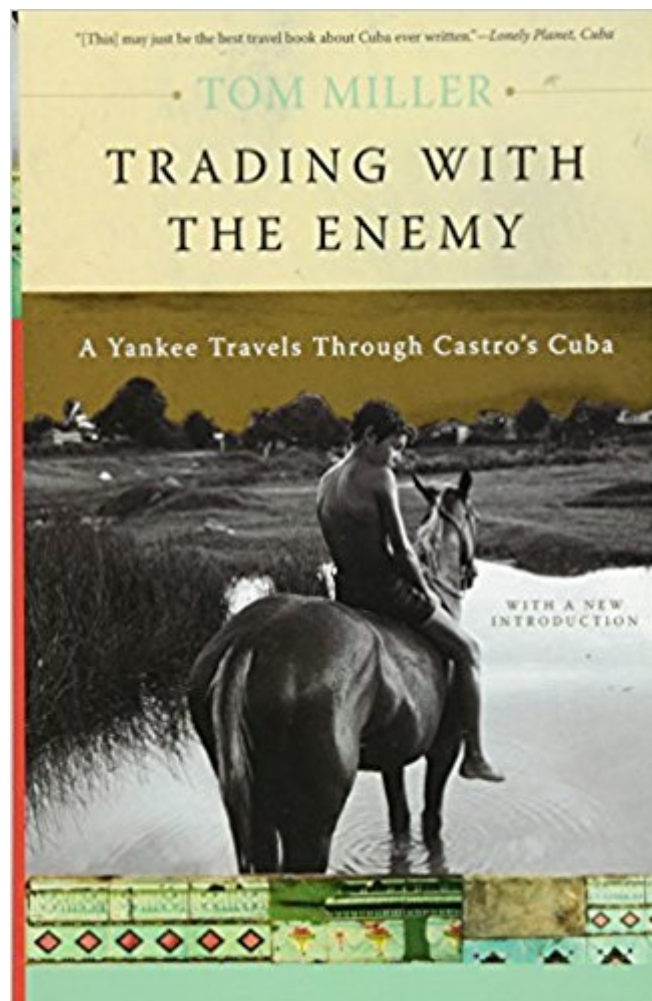




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Trading With The Enemy: A Yankee Travels Through Castro's Cuba



Synopsis

Havana knew me by my shoes, begins Tom Miller's lively and entertaining account of his sojourn for more than eight months traveling through Cuba, mixing with its literati and black marketers, its cane cutters and cigar rollers. Granted unprecedented access to travel throughout the country, the author presents us with a rare insight into one of the world's only Communist countries. Its best-known personalities and ordinary citizens talk to him about the U.S. embargo and tell their favorite Fidel jokes as they stand in line for bread at the Socialism or Death Bakery. Miller provides a running commentary on Cuba's food shortages, exotic sensuality, and baseball addiction as he follows the scents of Graham Greene, JosÃ© Marti, Ernest Hemingway, and the Mambo Kings. The result of this informed and adventurous journey is a vibrant, rhythmic portrait of a land and people too long shielded from American eyes.

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Customer Reviews

Journalist Miller's account of over eight months spent traveling through Cuba details the daily life of the people from Havana to Guantanamo. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Tom Miller is a veteran of the underground press of the 1960s. His work has appeared in Smithsonian, The New Yorker, LIFE, the New York Times, Natural History, and many other publications; and he has appeared on NBC, NPR, CNN, HBO, XM, and CSPAN, among other

broadcast outlets. He has been affiliated with the University of Arizona's Latin American Area Center since 1990, and makes his home in Tucson with his wife, Regla Albarr n.

A gift to my friend with Cuban roots, he reported back that he learned a lot about Cuba from this book. This is not this author's first work but one of a series written from the perspective of an experienced traveler throughout the Caribbean, Central and South America. With the current thawing of restraints with Cuba, this book may help better understand the situation of a stalled society. However, this book was written about 20 years ago. A few situations represented may not be entirely accurate such as the surreptitious use of the Internet by Cubans to get news about the world without, because social networking has developed extensively since this book was written. Books like this will become more and more valuable as people with an interest in a country held hostage for over 50 years while watching more history being made as the butterfly emerges from the cocoon.

Even though, 19 years old, the book's descriptions still ring true (my visit June 2011) although life seems more relaxed than described in book. One gets a real feel for the people, history and countryside without the tedium of a typical travel book. Used the book to look up certain addresses Miller referred to that were not typical tourist attractions. What fun! Reading like a travel diary, chapter headings would have been beneficial: p.3 Arrival, Havana & Neighborhoods of Miramar and Vedado; p.69 Koshier, p. 80 Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Sancti Spiritus, Playa Giron (Bay of Pigs); p. 113 Return to Havana; p. 130 Nitza Villapol, t.v. chef tells all; p.142 Pinar del Rio, cigar factory; p. 166 Hemingway; p. 203 Eastern tip; Guantanamo and Baraco; p. 274 to end Traveling, Watching and Playing Baseball with the Enemy. "It's a grand place and I'd be sorry not to go there again." Index. No photos. 3 maps: his routes through Cuba; geographical relationship of U. S., Mexico and Dominican Republic; and Havana). For more background: Sugar King of Havana: Rise and Fall of Julio Lobo, Cuba's Last Sugar King and Havana Nocturne: How the Mob Owned Cuba and then Lost it to the Revolution. Lots on Meyer Lansky.

Excellent book! Well written with great (true) story line. Probes and accurately portrays Cuban personalities and culture. Read this book shortly after visiting Cuba and his deprecation was spot-on.

Most interesting book on Cuba so long after the revolution destroys a lot of canard with facts and

data as well as personal contacts. I just got back from first visit to Cuba and rigid is spot on.

Great!

Superb story teller! Just back from Cuba! Nothing has changed since the book was written! More private restaurants and lodging!

I visited Cuba four months ago, and found Tom Miller's book recently. I loved it. His description was exactly the way I felt while I was there. Not a day goes by without at least one thought about the Cuban people who are so resilient living under such fragile conditions as to their food situation.

Good information

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