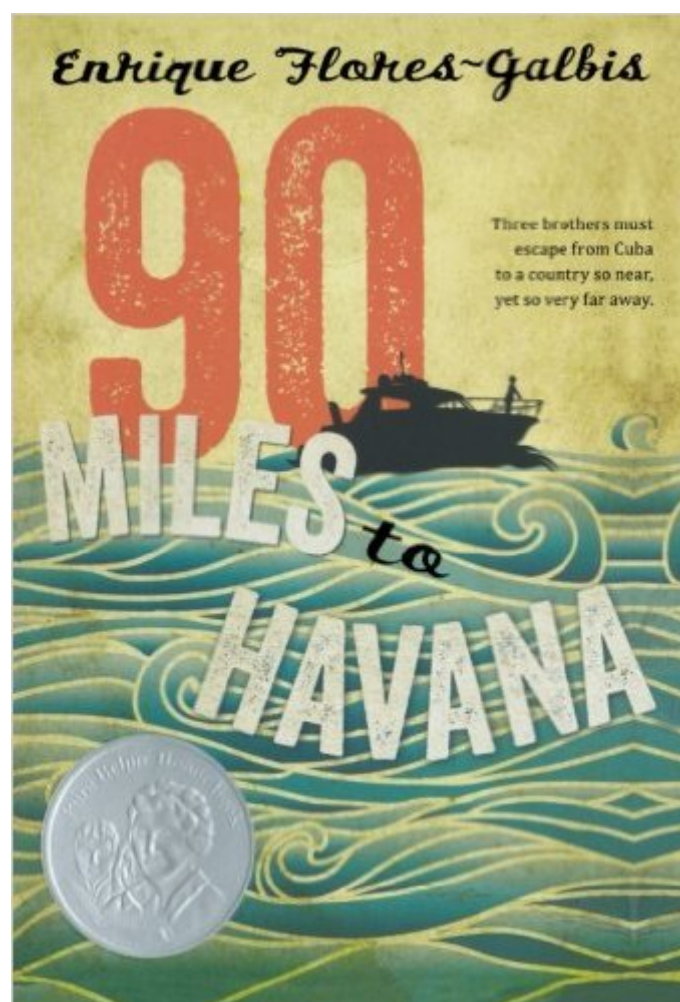


The book was found

90 Miles To Havana



Synopsis

90 Miles to Havana is a 2011 Pura Belpré® Honor Book for Narrative and a 2011 Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year. When Julian's parents make the heartbreaking decision to send him and his two brothers away from Cuba to Miami via the Pedro Pan operation, the boys are thrust into a new world where bullies run rampant and it's not always clear how best to protect themselves.

Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Square Fish; Reprint edition (September 18, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250005590

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Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (49 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #306,636 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #285 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino #318 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Orphans & Foster Homes #349 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

Dear All, It is with a great sense of pride, admiration, awe and (I have to admit) a little jealousy that I call your attention to my brother Enrique's second book, "90 Miles to Havana." "Raining Sardines," his first book, published in 2007, earned a prestigious "America's Award," for young adult fiction based in Latin America. "90 Miles to Havana," is Enrique's autobiographical account of his and his two older brother's experiences after being sent to a refugee camp in the US by our parents to escape Castro's totalitarian dictatorship. In "90 Miles to Havana," Enrique does a masterful job of capturing the essence of what the three brothers went through and uses his vivid imagination and descriptive talent to make the characters come alive and add dimension to the events. His characterization of my brother, Fernando, ("Gordo") and I, ("Alquilino") and our relationship, is right on the money. Speaking as an older brother who, according to the Laws of Birth Order, was responsible for "tormenting" my younger siblings, I can proudly claim that in some small way I

helped shape their personality. Although Enrique is a prize winning, and highly regarded portrait painter, and engaging lecturer in the fine arts, the publication of "90 Miles to Havana" and "Raining Sardines," confirmed what I have known for many years, he is, above all, a spellbinding storyteller. Anyway, enough fawning put down whatever Stieg Larsson novel you may be reading at the moment and pick up "90 Miles to Havana". You'll be glad you did. Right from the very first page you'll be enthralled, swept into a story of political upheaval, sibling rivalry, good vs.

I am a Cuban exile who has lived in Miami for many years. I was lucky enough to be able to come to the States with my mother at the age of nine and three younger siblings, after my father left via a clandestine route because he opposed the revolution. Looking back, I can only imagine the harrowing ordeal my mother went through hoping she would not be stopped before we were all able to get away safely. Nonetheless, at the time I felt we were living an adventure and I personally felt totally protected at my young mother's side. After all these years I thought no one could tell me anything I did not know about the Cuban revolution...Reading Enrique's novel on this the 50th anniversary of Pedro Pan brought a knot to my throat when I saw an example of what many children who were not so lucky as I, had to undergo to be able to live something we take for granted, a normal life in freedom. The author is a master story-teller who keeps you on the edge of your seat, unable to put the book down from cover-to-cover. He has undoubtedly and successfully transferred his portrait painting experience from the plastic arts to the literary arena. He clearly delineates the personalities of all the characters until you feel you know them. You empathize with Julian growing up turbo-speed out of necessity, honing his artistic sensibilities and noble personality without caving-in under pressure. Another trait that is very much part of the Cuban personality is the ingenuity shown by all of the characters. Necessity is the mother of invention.

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