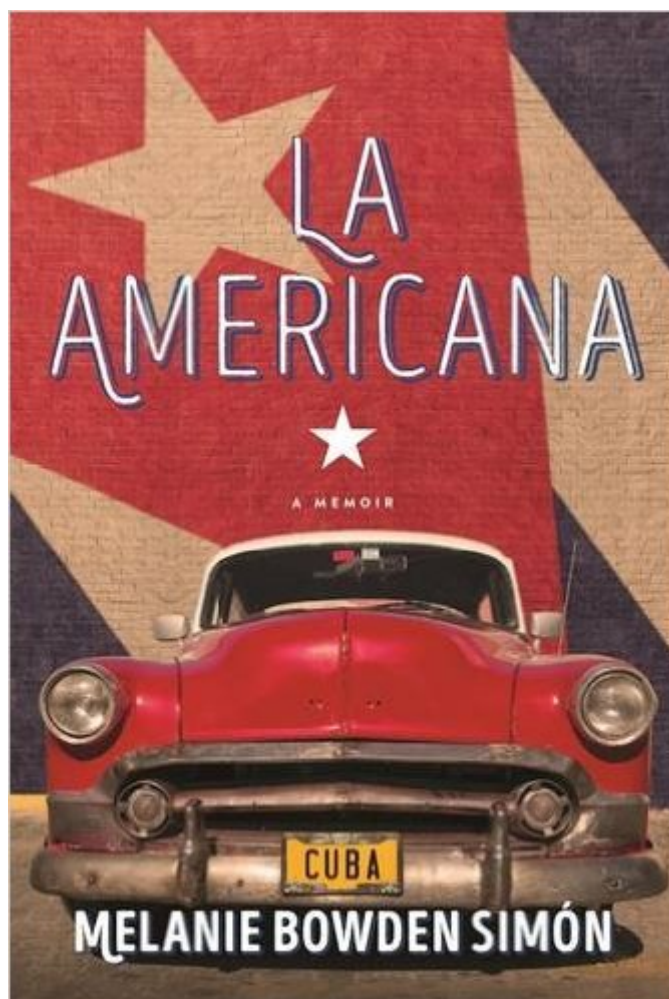


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# La Americana: A Memoir



## Synopsis

La Americana is the story of Melanie Bowden Simón, who, at the age of twenty-five, left her job at Tina Brown's Talk magazine following the death of her mother and decided to take a vacation in Havana, Cuba, with a friend. Little did she know that she would meet and fall in love with a Cuban man named Luis and dive headlong into a culture defined by beauty, humor, and grace within the unnerving realities of communism. In this memoir, Simón details her fascination with Cuban culture as she grapples with the death of her mother. She also covers the struggle to get in and out of Cuba at a time when the country is labeled a pariah state. Yet over and over again, Simón manages to overcome international barriers and overcome language and cultural obstacles—all in the name of her love for Luis. This book makes a great read for those with an interest in Cuban history, a zest for romance, or a passion for travel. Skyhorse Publishing, along with our Arcade, Good Books, Sports Publishing, and Yucca imprints, is proud to publish a broad range of biographies, autobiographies, and memoirs. Our list includes biographies on well-known historical figures like Benjamin Franklin, Nelson Mandela, and Alexander Graham Bell, as well as villains from history, such as Heinrich Himmler, John Wayne Gacy, and O. J. Simpson. We have also published survivor stories of World War II, memoirs about overcoming adversity, first-hand tales of adventure, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

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## Customer Reviews

Melanie Bowden Simon's superbly written memoir of poignant heartache and how "love can mend a broken heart," based upon her own personal experience, demonstrates the author's deep sensitivity as well as her impressive writing skills. As one who has fond memories of Melanie as a child, who knew her mother, and who recently enjoyed a memorable trip to Cuba, Melanie's book is meaningful to me on various levels. My husband and I learned much about the culture and history of Cuba during our one week on a People-to-People tour of Cuba in the spring of 2016. However, the information about Cuba and her people Melanie includes in her book supplements and enhances what we learned during our Cuban adventure. *La Americana* is now proudly displayed on a bookshelf in the study of our home, and I have already recommended it to many friends as a must-read book.

I met the author in an online writers' group and learned how much we have in common, especially with respect to Cuba, and was thrilled to hear about her memoir. I was fortunate to read an advance copy and enjoyed it immensely. What I especially appreciated was how Bowden Simon wove in Cuban history and did so without capitulating to the all-too-common temptation to either romanticize or criticize the Revolution, all while maintaining the pace of her own stories of loss and love.

Melanie Bowden Simon writes a beautiful story of death, love & finding an inner peace to breathe again. She shares a story so honest & raw that you won't want to put it down, even after you have finished the last page. One chapter I was cheering for her & Luis ..& the next chapter sobbing as she writes about her Mom. Her words on the page make you taste, smell & envision each of the towns & people she encounters through her travels to Cuba. And leaves a desire to want to travel to the country. This book is a must read!

There are love stories that are worth sharing and that is exactly what Melanie Bowden Simon did. "*La Americana*" is a true love story between a beautiful american girl and a handsome cuban taxi driver. This book will take you the communist Cuba and will make you fall in love with it's culture and it's people. Highly recommended!!!

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