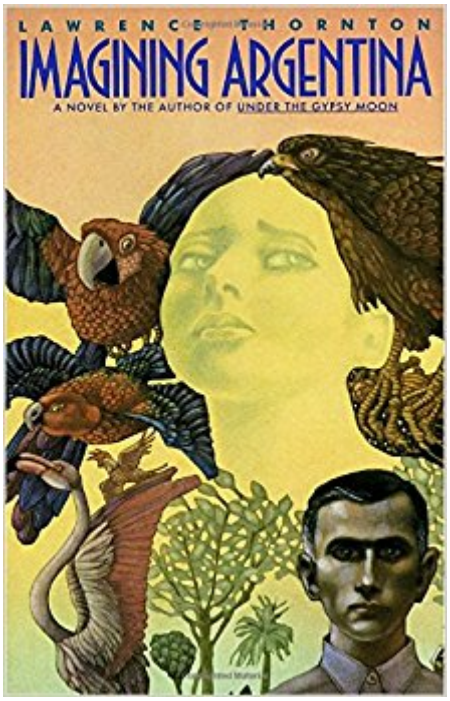
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# Imagining Argentina




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## Synopsis

Imagining Argentina is set in the dark days of the late 1970's, when thousands of Argentineans disappeared without a trace into the general's prison cells and torture chambers. When Carlos Ruweda's wife is suddenly taken from him, he discovers a magical gift: In waking dreams, he had clear visions of the fates of "the disappeared." But he cannot "imagine" what has happened to his own wife. Driven to near madness, his mind cannot be taken away: imagination, stories, and the mystical secrets of the human spirit.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This astonishingly proficient and gripping first novel should be required reading for anyone who calls him or herself a responsible citizen. Not only is it masterfully written, with images as sharp as shards of broken glass, but it also carries a message so potent it burns into the conscience. Set in Buenos Aires during the rule of the generals and their brutal policy of abducting and obliterating those who opposed them, the narrative tells of playwright Carlos Rueda, who suddenly finds himself with the power to "see" the disappeared ones and their fates. In the tradition of magical realism, by rendering almost palpable the sense of unreality that bizarre events evoke, Thornton makes Carlos's gift entirely convincing. Carlos's power announces itself when his journalist wife Cecilia is abducted; he uses it to bring news of their loved ones to the courageous mothers who march in the Plaza de Mayo in an effort to make the generals acknowledge their missing kin. Thornton conveys the fates of the disappeared in hauntingly credible scenes, at the same time providing a mesmerizing portrait

of the xenophobic ideology that allows the generals to commit any brutality in the name of patriotism. In spite of his personal tragedy, which is compounded by two additional bitter blows, Carlos's faith in the power of reason remains strong. "There are two Argentinas," he says,"the regime's travesty of it, and the one we have in our hearts." Eventually the pure power of his imagination wins out over the obscene power of the ruling junta; the generals flee and some of the "disappeareds" come home. "It is not often that you see life and fiction take each other by the hand and dance," says this novel's narrator. The judge at the trial of the generals cries out: "Nunca mas!" Thornton's achievement is to make us see the power inherent in books such as this one, books that carry a message of hope to those who will read, believe, act and survive. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

During the recent military rule in Argentina, outspoken journalist Cecilia Rueda is among the "disappeared," one of the thousands of prisoners tortured and frequently murdered by a regime that then denies their existence. After her disappearance, Cecilia's playwright husband Carlos discovers that he has a gift: when someone recounts the last known details of a disappeared, Carlos sees that person's present situation in a vision that released prisoners verify as accurate. Narrated by the Ruedas' friend, Martin Benn, in whose terse style both atrocities and surreal tales are effectively conveyed, this work has valid moral groundsfaith in the imagination's ability to sustain lifethat nevertheless cannot undermine the horrors of material reality that Benn describes. Mollie Brodsky, English Dept., Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, N.J.Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

A friend recommended this book to me. I found it a very good read plus very informative about a tragic time in that country's history I was not that aware of.

Set in the Argentina of the late 1970's when the country was ruled by the iron hand of the military junta. Videla and his murderers somehow manage to nearly vanish an entire generation. They didn't just disappear they were nearly erased. The story begins with the disappearance of Carlos Rueda's wife Cecilia. In wake of her disappearance Carlos discovers a magical gift; he begins to have visions of those that have disappeared and is able to help others with his gift yet he cannot find his own wife. He is driven to near madness trying to find her and in the process he will loose many things and people that are dear to him. I cannot fathom that a country would do this to its own people. The book is a work of fiction but what takes place isn't. It is the story of many Argentinians

that were taken away from their homes without mercy and never to be seen again. It is a HORRIFIC truth that should NEVER AGAIN happen. I don't believe nor will ever sympathize with communist ideas, nonetheless, the ends don't always justify the means. What the junta did was create a witch hunt that claimed the lives of many innocent people. There are many things in the book that are hard to believe and most certainly never happened during those dark years, but the book is worth reading and I recommend it.

This book is honestly amazing. Usually when students are supposed to read certain material they do it out of obligation and not for their own will of reading. With this novel however, the entire class finished reading with enthusiasm and genuine concern of what was going to happen next. Lawrence Thornton, the author, has a brilliant voice and a fantastic way of expressing his thoughts. Not only were there awesome uses of symbolism in this novel, but there were also great stories and excellent characters. I would highly recommend this book to anyone, especially because of the messages portrayed within the pages. As for the seller, I received the book in excellent condition and the price was very convenient.

Since returning from Argentina and ChilÃƒÂ©, I found the story of Carlos Rueda fascinating, especially since the two countries experienced similar troubles. By troubles, I mean the "disappearances" of political dissidents.

Outstanding book. I love the concept that you have to be able to imagine something for it to ever be true. Intriguing story used to describe the unfortunate time in Argentina's history when people were simply disappearing.

Valuable insight into the nature of a brutal regime attempting to control a society through brutality and secrecy. A strong cautionary tale for our own society.

A very metaphorical story of how truth speaks to power; first name the oppressors and speak to and about them. Then imagine the alterity of living. Be prepared for the pain and the promise.

Like the book so much, I had to watch the movie. The movie stayed fairly close to the book....it is just that the film explained the situations better

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