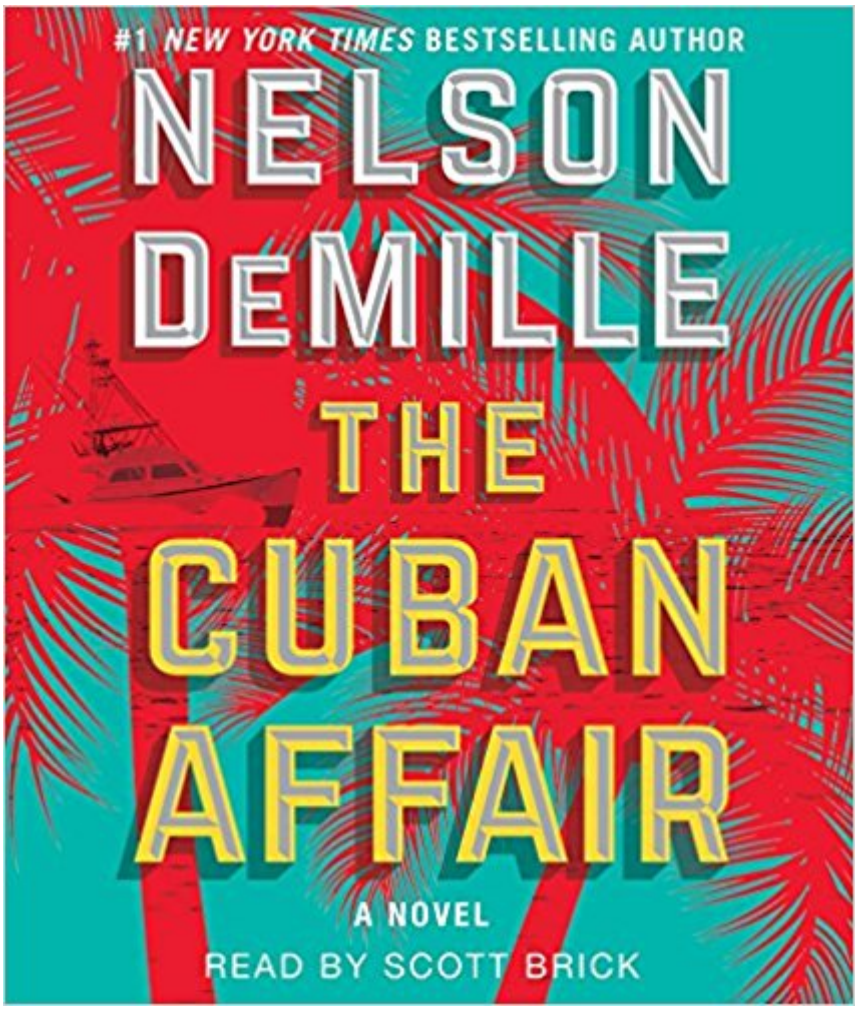
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The Cuban Affair



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Synopsis

INCLUDES AN EXTENDED INTERVIEW WITH NELSON DEMILLE AND SCOTT BRICK! From the legendary #1 New York Times bestselling author of Plum Island and Night Fall, Nelson DeMilleÃ¢â ¬â„¢s blistering new novel features an exciting new characterÃ¢â ¬â •US Army combat veteran Daniel Ã¢â ¬Å“MacÃ¢â ¬Â• MacCormick, now a charter boat captain, who is about to set sail on his most dangerous cruise.Daniel Graham MacCormickÃ¢â ¬â •Mac for shortÃ¢â ¬â •seems to have a pretty good life. At age thirty-five heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s living in Key West, owner of a forty-two-foot charter fishing boat, The Maine. Mac served five years in the Army as an infantry officer with two tours in Afghanistan. He returned with the Silver Star, two Purple Hearts, scars that donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t tan, and a boat with a big bank loan. Truth be told, MacÃ¢â ¬â„¢s finances are more than a little shaky. One day, Mac is sitting in the famous Green Parrot Bar in Key West, contemplating his life, and waiting for Carlos, a hotshot Miami lawyer heavily involved with anti-Castro groups. Carlos wants to hire Mac and The Maine for a ten-day fishing tournament to Cuba at the standard rate, but Mac suspects there is more to this and turns it down. The price then goes up to two million dollars, and Mac agrees to hear the deal, and meet CarlosÃ¢â ¬â„¢s clientsÃ¢â ¬â •a beautiful Cuban-American woman named Sara Ortega, and a mysterious older Cuban exile, Eduardo Valazquez. What Mac learns is that there is sixty million American dollars hidden in Cuba by SaraÃ¢â ¬â„¢s grandfather when he fled CastroÃ¢â ¬â„¢s revolution. With the Ã¢â ¬Å“Cuban ThawÃ¢â ¬Â• underway between Havana and Washington, Carlos, Eduardo, and Sara know itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s only a matter of time before someone finds the stashÃ¢â ¬â •by accident or on purpose. And Mac knows if he accepts this job, heÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll walk away richÃ¢â ¬Â¦or not at all. Brilliantly written, with his signature humor, fascinating authenticity from his research trip to Cuba, and heart-pounding pace, Nelson DeMille is a true master of the genre.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

PRAISE FOR THE CUBAN AFFAIR BY NELSON DEMILLE: Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“[An] action-packed, relentlessly paced thrillerÃ¢â ¬Â¦ A line from the novel perfectly describes this page-turner: Ã¢â ¬Ëœ Sex, money, and adventure. Does it get any better than that?Ã¢â ¬â„¢Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Publishers Weekly (starred review) Ã¢â ¬Å“DeMille's latest is a timely stay-up-all-night, nail-biting page-turner featuring his iconic tongue-in-cheek, articulate, rhythmic narrative. His affably irreverent protagonist, fantastic believable supporting characters, and tense, realistic Cuba-set scenes including some jaw-dropping revelations make this a must-read for his many fans.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Library Journal (starred review) Ã¢â ¬Å“The thriller charts a satisfying course. A good day's work from an old pro.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Kirkus Reviews "This is powerful, mythic stuff, like Confederate gold and Nazi treasure...As the true nature of the charter-boat ownerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s job becomes clear and the betrayals begin, DeMille mounts a long, magnificent sequence with boat chases, helicopter rescues, and tracer fire. TheyÃ¢â ¬â„¢re all described in that visceral style the author has mastered." Ã¢â ¬â •Booklist "This book has that incredible wit that Nelson DeMille has, and nobody writes characters like Nelson does." Ã¢â ¬â •Tampa Bay Times Ã¢â ¬Å“Nelson DeMille has outdone himself. I thought that Plum Island was one of my favorite thrillers of all time, but I was wrongÃ¢â ¬â •DeMille is always going up a gear and The Cuban Affair is going to be one of the top ten thrillers of the year.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Strand Magazine Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

Nelson DeMille is theÃ Â New York TimesÃ Â bestselling author of twenty novels, six of which were #1Ã Â New York TimesÃ Â bestsellers. His novels includeÃ Â The Cuban Affair, Radiant Angel, Plum Island, The Charm School,Ã Â The Gold Coast, andÃ Â The GeneralÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Daughter, which was made into a major motion picture, starring John Travolta and Madeleine Stowe. He has written short stories, book reviews, and articles for magazines and newspapers. Nelson DeMille is a combat-decorated U.S. Army veteran, a member of Mensa, Poets & Writers, and the Authors Guild, and a member and past president of the Mystery Writers of America. He is also a member of the International Thriller Writers, who honored him as 2015 ThrillerMaster of the Year. He lives on Long Island with his family.

Lately some of my favorite authors have been changing direction in their writing. They have all perfected a particular formula that works for them and is demanded by their readers. Unfortunately -- or fortunately -- either the authors have gotten tired of writing the "same old, same old", have run out of story lines, or perhaps are motivated by declining book sales. In any event, Mr. DeMille has introduced us to two new main characters. Front and center is Mac MacCormick, a former infantry officer who survived five years of being shot at in Afghanistan. Mac has sought out a more peaceful lifestyle in Key West, Florida, chartering out to fishermen and tourists on various excursions. He is ably assisted by his first mate, Jack Colby, a 70 year old Vietnam Veteran whose main skill seems to be his ability to hold up his end of the numerous verbal insults hailed back and forth between the two men.The second main character we're introduced to is named Cuba. She is a mistress with many suitors, a peacock of many colors, a hard person to get to know, and she doesn't suffer fools. Mr. DeMille visited her during the recent detente involving cultural exchanges and came away with a good understanding of what makes her tick. Of course Mr. DeMille also did his normally exhaustive research so that he could paint a realistic (and accurate) picture of who she is. Remember the pictures of classic (pre-1959) American cars used as taxis? They may appear (good from afar but far from good) to be beautifully restored relics of the past but inside they resemble Cuba herself. Anything and everything of any value is scavenged and used efficiently. That beautiful 1957 Chevy you saw a picture of may be propelled by a marine engine with a Hyundai transmission. It looks good from the outside but inside she isn't anything like what she appears to be. And so goes Cuba. There are genuinely beautiful places to see in Cuba but they are surrounded by rotting old buildings that have suffered from time and disrepair. Take off her makeup and all you see is squalor.I could go on and on about what I learned about Cuba from reading "The Cuban Affair" but I can sum it up by saying that I have no desire to visit. However Mr. DeMille makes good use of her many drawbacks and few attributes to craft an interesting story about Cuban expats engaging Mac and crew (that would be Jack) to return to Cuba under one pretense but to accomplish a far different goal. You know the old saying "all plans are great until the first shot is fired"? When Mac and company meet Cuba it has all the charm of a good first date, but once they got to know each other, the relationship deteriorates rapidly and divorce became the only way out. It was either that or they would end up killing each other.Nelson DeMille writes in his typical engaging style that hardly lets a paragraph go by without injecting some appropriate humor. He is sarcastic, cynical, and yet realistic in dealing with characters who have been christened under fire. The only problem I had was that at the end I felt a bit unfulfilled. But perhaps that was Mr. DeMille's strategy -- this book may be the

beginning chapter in a new series. Bring it on!

I’ve been a big Nelson DeMille fan for years. His unique combination of irreverent humor and suspenseful action has been a winning combination in novels like The Gold Coast, Plum Island, and Night Fall. In The Cuban Affair, DeMille introduces us to a new protagonist, former Army officer Daniel "Mac" MacCormick, who is "busy" recovering from the trauma he experienced serving in Afghanistan. His days as a Key West charter boat captain are spent drinking, chasing women, and trying to earn enough money to pay off his boat loan.Mac’s pleasant lifestyle is interrupted when he’s approached by a slick Miami lawyer who offers him the promise of a huge payday if he’s willing to participate in a clandestine mission to recover sixty-million in cash that has been hidden in a Cuban cave since the time of the revolution. After meeting the lawyer’s beautiful client (Sara Ortega) and against his better judgment, Mac agrees to accompany Sara on this treacherous mission, with his boat serving as the getaway vehicle.DeMille, who recently toured Cuba himself, provides an insider look at this police state, where the residents are trapped on a deteriorating island and anti-American sentiment runs rampant. Although much of this information is interesting, the middle of the novel feels padded and somewhat repetitious, as if DeMille feels the need to weave all of the sites he visited into the narrative. (I also found one of the characters, a writer named "Neville" who’s in the same tour group as Mac and Sara and is obviously modeled after DeMille himself, to be an overly cute and unnecessary inside joke.) Danger threatens Mac and Sara throughout, and their love affair spices up the story, giving its title a catchy double-meaning, but the action doesn’t ratchet up to the John Corey standard until the final getaway chapters.Overall, this was a fun, suspenseful read, I just wouldn’t put it near the top of DeMille’s body of work.

There is something about Nelson DeMille and his ability to create a character that is smart, brave, loyal and a real smart you-know-what. That ability of the character to be cool under fire, make a fast decision under pressure and get off the perfect zinger or one liner, whether aloud or in his head, is fantastic. Likewise, Nelson DeMille’s ability to make that character different from each of the others in his other books, from here with Mac (Daniel MacCormick) to John Sutter and John Corey to Paul Brenner. You know when you pick up one of his books itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s going to be a page turner.This is another page turner and I ended up reading most of it in a little more than a day. At every turn there was another twist, turn or hidden motive revealing itself. That is the other thing that continues to draw me to Nelson DeMille books, the hidden motives and agendas of those seeking the heroÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s help. There is always some different angle that keeps the storyline fresh

and wanting you to find out more. Highly recommend.

You can always know when you are reading a great author when they are able to change direction for their usual writing. Mr. DeMille is one of these authors. I love his book and have read all of them and they all seem to share characters, scenarios, etc. but The Cuban Affair introduces a couple of new main characters and the result is a well written book. Mr. DeMille has written another fine book without the usual comfortable writing that he has done in the past. The characters are well formed and have interesting backgrounds. The story line is awesome and keeps your interest and puts you, the reader, right in the middle of this thriller. Plenty of action, chases, gun battles, etc make this a winner for Mr. DeMille. Different from what I am used to reading from him but it works and it works very very well.

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