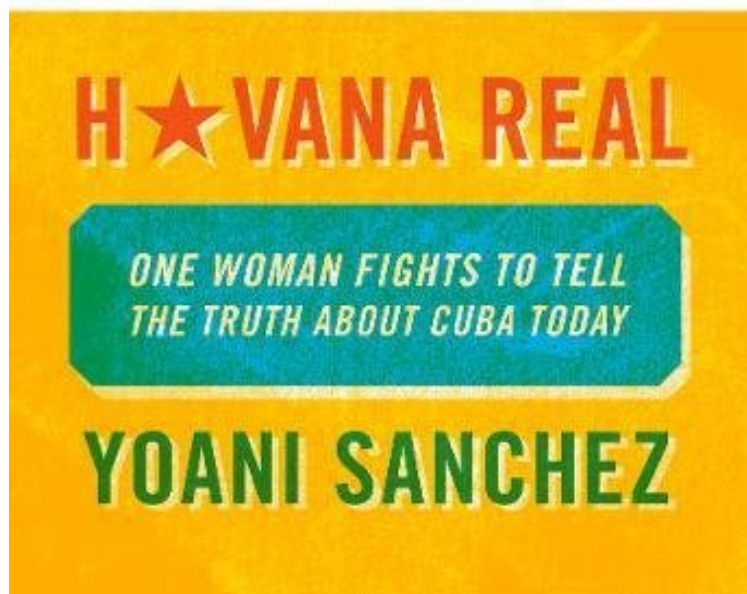


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Havana Real: One Woman Fights to Tell the Truth about Cuba Today

Yoani Sanchez

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Yoani Sanchez : Havana Real: One Woman Fights to Tell the Truth about Cuba Today before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Havana Real: One Woman Fights to Tell the Truth about Cuba Today:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting review of daily life in Cuba By R. McCormick I read this book as a compilation of blogs about daily life and struggles in Castro's Cuba. Nothing more and nothing less. I suspect it is a pretty accurate reflection of what routinely goes on in this pathetically backward and mismanaged

country, run by the paranoid Castro brothers. How accurate is it? What I know suggests it is pretty accurate depiction of life, particularly after the fall of the USSR and the curtailment of their aid. Fortunately for the Castro brothers, Chavez stepped in to take over the job of propping up their failed experiment. Is it any wonder that Castro gushes with love at the mere mention of Chavez, his comrade in arms against the "evil" USA. Both of their paranoia over the USA reinforce their reason for continued existence and comradeship. Of course the importation of 40,000 doctors and advisors to Venezuela with their instant citizenship status and voting rights has not been without difficulties for the Venezuelans, but that is another story. For the Cubans, it is another chance to escape to potentially a better life. The brain drain just continues for Cuba. I would welcome the views and comments of the Cuban exiles who have read this book and/or her blogs (if they can do so without jeopardizing their family interests in Cuba. How accurate are the examples of daily life? 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A kick to the head and heart By Alejandro Garcia These days, much of what we read on Cuba comes from the remembrances of exiles who left in the 60s and 70s or foreign journalists who are constrained by the country's considerable security apparatus from telling the whole story. The result is that we know very little of the daily lives and struggles of the average modern Cuban beyond the Special Period. Yoani Sanchez changes all that with her three year collection of blogs, which has provided the world an unparalleled window into one of the world's last remaining Cold War bastions. Part diary, part confessional, full indictment, it leaps of the page like a long held in scream, such as only a lifetime of hiding one's true thoughts and feelings can build. It strips away all pretense of the mystique and romanticism built up around revolutionary Cuba by opuses like *The Motorcycle Diaries* and *Che* and leaves us with grim scenes right out of Orwell of a failing state headed by a neglectful, kleptomaniac bureaucracy, where rumor stands for news and the most heinous crimes are those of thought. It is also a breath of fresh air to those who still live with the legacy of the Castro regime, and testament to the courage of one woman who could just as easily run away like so many others, yet against great hardship has chosen to stay and bear witness. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Real Eye Opener By yetta This book is amazing and so is the writer Yoani Sanchez. I've always wanted to know what its really like for the people that actually live in Cuba under its strict regime. Yoani Sanchez provides thoughtful insight into her daily struggles. Something so simple for those of us in the free world like checking email is a huge challenge for her and for others that are trying to show the world what its really like to live in a country where so much is restricted. This book is motivating and inspiring and should be read by the masses; not only will it teach you about what real struggle is but it will help you to be grateful for the little things we take for granted on a daily basis.

She's been kidnapped and beaten, lives under surveillance, and can only get online in disguise at tourist hotspots. She's a blogger, she's a Cuban, and she's a worldwide sensation. Yoani Sanchez is an unusual dissident: no street protests, no attacks on big politicians, no calls for revolution. Rather, she produces a simple diary about what it means to live under the Castro regime: the chronic hunger and the difficulty of shopping; the art of repairing ancient appliances; and the struggles of living under a propaganda machine that pushes deep into public and private life. For these simple acts of truth-telling her life is one of constant threat. But she continues on, refusing to be silenced a living response to all who have ceased to believe in a future for Cuba.

Praise for *Havana Real* "An important new voice, both literary and political." Larry Rohter, *New York Times* "Perhaps the greatest hope for Cuba exists in the simple fact that Sanchez, a seriously disillusioned child of the revolution, chooses to stay there and pressure for change from within, while so many others choose to flee." Miriam Zoila Perez, *Ms. Magazine* "With her vivid portraits of family and friends, including Cuba's determined dissidents, Yoani Sanchez dissolves the abstractions used to fuse individuals into generic masses. Little wonder that state media have labeled her and her friends 'cyber commandos.'" Mary Speck, *Washington Post* "Speaks for the generation who came of age after the U.S.S.R. collapsed." *Boston Globe* "Raw journalism at its best... Enlightening, engaging and brave, this is a must-read for anyone with an interest in Cuba--or for anyone who nurses romantic notions about this tiny, brutal communist state." *Publishers Weekly*, starred review "Other books offer a glance at Cuba still under a Castro, but none can compare with this remarkable diary of a life most can only imagine... unequivocally highly recommended not just for all who are interested in Cuba today, but for fans of memoir, non-U.S. women's perspectives, and all who are concerned with human rights." *Library Journal* "A heckuva writer... A sharp-edged snapshot of life in Cuba." Juan Tamayo, *The Miami Herald* Praise for Yoani Sanchez Under the nose of a regime that has never tolerated dissent, Sanchez has practiced what paper-bound journalists in her country cannot: freedom of speech. . . Time *Ms. Sanchez* paints an unflinching, and deeply personal, portrait of the Cuban experience. *The Wall Street Journal* Filled with personal observations and sardonic social commentary . . . [Sanchez's] bleak poetry does not focus overtly on politics, but instead conveys the texture of daily life in a crumbling totalitarian system. *The New York Times* [Sanchez] provides the world a unique window into the realities of daily life in Cuba . . . empower[ing] fellow Cubans to express themselves through the use of technology. Barack Obama What has probably unnerved the regime is not so much her attacks on the Castro brothers as her vivid description of daily life. . . . Where does this woman get her courage? *The Washington Post* "She has used technology to promote positive change. She has created an interactive space for the

exchange of ideas and free expression. She has given voice to the concerns and aspirations of her fellow citizens. And so her words, despite her governments best efforts, are being translated into other languages, are being picked up and spread around because freedom knows no boundaries. And she deserves our thanks for demonstrating that again and again."Hillary ClintonAbout the AuthorYOANI SNCHEZ,a University of Havana graduate in philology, emigrated to Switzerland in 2002. Two years later, she decided to return to Cuba but promised herself she would live there as a free person and started her blog,Generation Y, upon her return. In 2008,Timemagazine named her one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World"; it namedGeneration Yone of the "Best Blogs of 2009." Spain honored her with its highest award for digital journalism, the Ortega y Gasset Prize. In 2011, Michelle Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton honored her with the International Women of Culture Award. She lives with her husband, independent journalist Reinaldo Escobar, and their son in a high-rise apartment in Havana overlooking Revolution Square.TranslatorM.J. PORTERlives in Seattle, where she is a partner in a transportation-consulting firm. She co-founded the cooperative website,HemosOido.com, where volunteers now translate the work of more than thirty Cuban bloggers into English, German, French and Danish.