



What Lies Across the Water

Stephen Kimber

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Is the man who blows up an airplane and kills dozens of civilians a murderous terrorist... or a valiant freedom fighter? Is the man who tries to stop the bomber a threat to national security... or a hero of the people?

It depends.

What Lies Across the Water is a narrative nonfiction thriller. About terrorists who blow up airplanes and try to overthrow governments. About intelligence agents who try to stop them.

The twist is that these terrorists are not Muslim. They're Cuban exiles. And the men trying to stop them? Cuban intelligence agents.

What Lies Across the Water examines the post-9/11 Bush doctrine—"Any nation that continues to harbor or support terrorism will be regarded by the United States as a hostile regime"—by focusing on what happened in Miami and Havana in the 1990s when the American government—and Miami's Cuban violent exile community—ratcheted up their attacks against Cuba.

Cuba responded by sending intelligence agents to South Florida to penetrate the plotters.

What Lies Across the Water uses an in-the-moment narrative to tell the parallel, converging, diverging stories of the exile militants, Cuban intelligence officers and FBI agents as they clash in Havana, Miami and the Straits of Florida. The story moves from the streets of Little Havana to real Havana's Tropicana nightclub, from the hotel bar at the Copacabana Hotel to the inner sanctum of the White House—and back.

What Lies Across the Water climaxes when Cuba's intelligence agents—the Cuba Five—are arrested and sentenced to long prison terms while the exile terrorists go free.

Who's really a terrorist and who's really a freedom fighter?

"I have been following the case of the Cuban Five for over a decade and have translated dozens of articles about their case. I have also translated entire books on exile violence against Cuba, but this book offered tidbits that I was unaware of, drew connections that I had not noticed before, and most importantly to me, confirmed some suspicions and dispelled a few rumors that I was unsure about. I am confident that even expert Cubanologists will find What Lies Across the Water useful, informative, at times infuriating, but always entertaining." — Havana Times

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"The author's clear, flowing, and often seat-gripping, even entertaining, narrative is an added plus. The book is highly recommended..." — Counterpunch

What Lies Across the Water Details

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From Reader Review What Lies Across the Water for online ebook

Mallory says

This book educated me about struggles and issues I had little to no knowledge of. Mr. Kimber goes into enormous detail in telling the story of five Cuban agents who were arrested on U.S. soil while working to prevent terrorist attacks in their home country. He succeeds in showing the delicate balance these agents had to maintain personally and professionally, and shows how easily the truth can be manipulated to fit one's own story or angle. I must say, at times I felt I was drowning in facts. Even with a cast of characters list to refer to, I often got lost and had trouble remembering who was who. However, this book was well worth the time put into reading it. I learned a lot that I was unaware of about our relationship with Cuba and so much history that, outside of Miami, doesn't get national play. Really fascinating stuff, especially in light of 9/11 and afterward. So pleased that I won a copy of this book!

Favorite quotes: "It was all about compartmentalization. The fewer people who understood everything the less likelihood that one agent or officer could compromise an entire operation."

"Every spy needs a break. Extended vacations at home in Cuba were one of the few perks Cuban State Security offered its illegal officers as a less-than-fair exchange for spending the rest of their lives living alone as people they were not, in places that were not home, enduring the constant risk of exposure, or arrest, or worse."

Cynthia says

well written, will come back to it

Chris says

With surgeon-like skill Kimber dissects, bottom up, an injustice perpetrated at the highest U.S. levels on Cuban patriots, acting for their government, with few financial resources in a hostile foreign country. The Cuban Five's spy efforts were hit and miss, but they did save lives. Using a reconstructive storytelling method, Kimber launches readers like a pingpong ball off...

Read full review at <http://atlanticbookstoday.ca/a-halifa...>

Pedro says

I got this book through the Goodreads giveaway program. I would like to thank the author very much for the kind autograph.

This book have left me hooked from the first page. The compelling narrative take us to Miami in the nineties,

where the Cuban exile community plans to overthrow Fidel Castro. They will use any means at their disposal to do so, even killing innocent people. Are they freedom fighters or terrorists? The answer depends only on which side you look from. Someone sent to stop them is a threat to country where they operate or a hero? That also depends. The book brings us the raw facts and allow the read to decide what to think. It is easy to read and all sources are identified, which can be useful for the sceptic ones. The only drawback is that some scenes are a bit too long.

For my part, I think both sides did good and bad things. Looking at this situation as white and black is being colour-blind. How can someone judge without knowing the facts? How much the media can bias the justice? Some scenes, like the bomb at the chess contest, will leave you awestruck.

I recommend it to anyone that love history or that would like to know more about the Cuban 5.

Michael says

An historical narrative entwined in a maze of endless twists and turns involving foreign agents, terrorism imported from the United States, FBI surveillance, criminals acting with impunity, and ultimately injustice. Kimber painstakingly documents the history preceding the arrest of the Cuban Five as well as connected events during and after it. Somewhat dry reading of something that could have been a page turning, fact stranger than fiction telling of events. Also with all the names, aliases, etc. it would have been easier if Kimber documented all the various names of the same person, but stuck to using only one during his narrative.

rabble.ca says

<http://rabble.ca/books/reviews/2013/0...>

Review by Yutaka Dirks

On September 12, 1998, the FBI mounted coordinated raids in locations across the state of Florida, arresting ten people. The FBI alleged that they were members of a Cuban spy network, sent by Castro to undermine the security of the United States of America.

They were also accused in the deaths of four Cuban exiles from Miami, who had been shot down by the Cuban Air Force in 1996.

The people in custody told a different story. They said they were actually in the U.S. to stop terrorism; Havana had recently been the target of a bombing campaign that had killed a visiting Canadian. The Cuban security apparatus had sent them north to gather intelligence on anti-Castro Cuban exiles linked to the suspects.

Despite their claims of innocence, five Cuban men were found guilty of a range of crimes, including conspiracy to commit espionage; the five others pleaded guilty to lesser offences.

Three months after the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, Antonio Guerrero and Ramón Labañino were

sentenced to life in prison; Fernando González to 19 years; René González to 15 years; and Gerardo Hernández, the only one to be convicted of conspiracy to commit murder, to "double life plus 15 years."

Stephen Kimber, an award-winning writer and journalist from Halifax, first heard of the men known as the Cuban Five while vacationing in Cuba, three years after they began serving their sentences in U.S. prisons. It wasn't until a second visit to the island nation, made with the intention of doing research for a novel, when he found himself caught up in the intrigue of their case.

Read more here: <http://rabble.ca/books/reviews/2013/0...>
