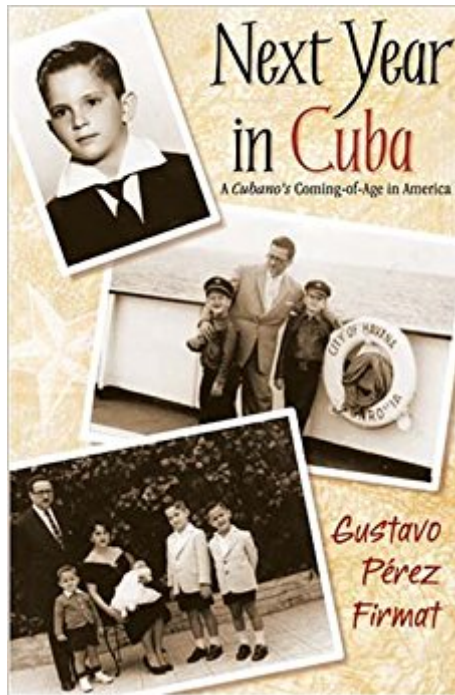


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# Next Year In Cuba: A Cubano's Coming-Of-Age In America



## Synopsis

Poet, fiction, writer, and scholar Gustavo Perez Firmat writes a heartfelt memoir of a Cuban-American's lifelong search for identity and a sense of roots in his adopted land.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a young person who was born in the United States but whose parents were born in Cuba, identity has never been black and white for me--although it has always been blue, red, and white. This book crystallized so many emotions that I had felt my entire life but had never really examined. If you are 22 and have never been to Cuba, but still call yourself Cuban or if you are 60 and think of your childhood on that island paradise everyday--this book will make you laugh, it might make you cry, and it will certainly make you think. For over forty years now Cubans have been hoping for that "next year" to come to fruition, but we are still waiting. This book will make you long for "next year" like never before. Read it--you will never forget you did.

My husband grew up with author in Cuba and in Miami. It was very heart felt and an accurate story of the children that were torn from their homeland. My husband and Gustavo played football for LaSalle high school and he was mentioned in the book. ZIGGY says HI.

Gustavo Perez-Firmat's memoir is a heartfelt read. For anyone who has straddled the hyphenated word Cuban-American and thought themselves as a CBA (Cuban-born Americans) or

ABC(American-bred Cubans), this book is a secret treasure. Perez-Firmat takes the reader on a cultural literary journey as he tries to come to terms with exactly what and where home is. Is it the place you were born (Cuba), the place you were exiled to, (Miami) or the city that you find yourself most at peace with (Chapel Hill, North Carolina) Perez-Firmat offers a tender philosophical introspective read on all the above. The book took me to the corner merchants and restaurants of la saguesera to the academia of Chapel Hill, where Perez-Firmat later settled in as he pursued a master's in literature. Or as he puts it, "Living with an American spouse, dealing with American stepchildren, and speaking English at home, I am much more aware of my nationality than I ever was before." (p.171) His memories of his family dynamics (two grandmothers sharing a two-bedroom with him, his brother and their parents) will be relatable to anyone with a large Hispanic family or to fans of PBS 70s show "Que Pasa USA?" But his take on his "romance with teaching" really resonated with me. I enjoyed reading the often humorous tales of this professor in the classroom as he teaches college students about Spanish literature. In one scene, Perez-Firmat goes on to describe his philosophy for teaching, which can serve as a lesson to many aspiring teachers. "I'm a successful teacher to the extent that I can get my students to fall for me... In a deep sense, I am the material... Like other love affairs, teaching has its own pace and moods, its good and bad days, its coded language, its rewarding or bitter conclusion. Sometimes you walk into a class and it's love at first sight."

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