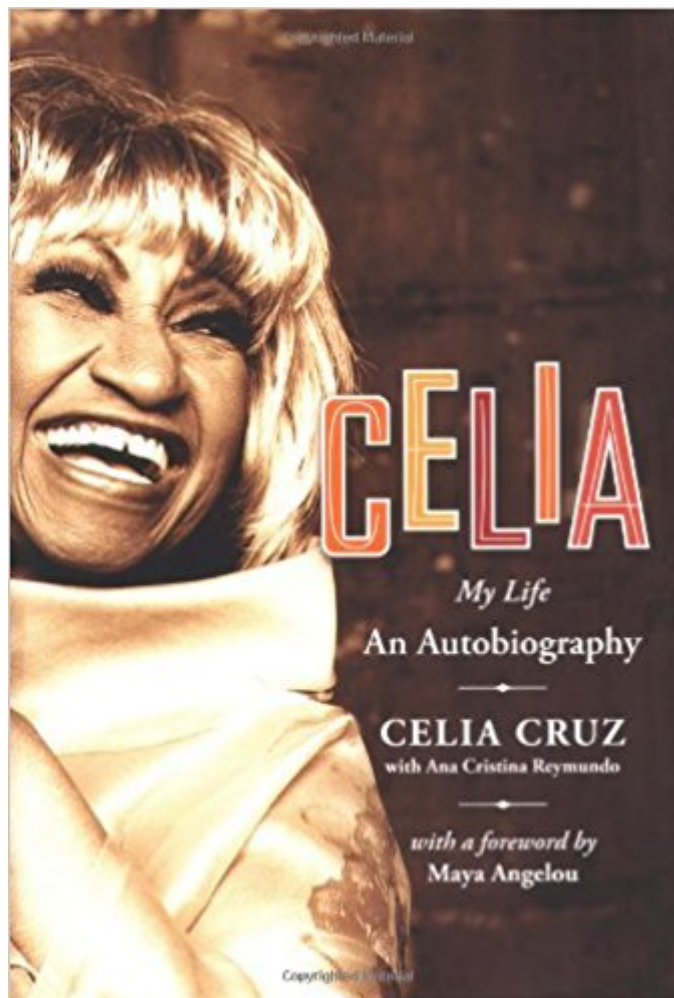


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# Celia: My Life



## Synopsis

For the first time in her own words comes the personal story of a life filled with heartbreaking setback and triumph, from one of the most celebrated talents the world has ever known. After Celia Cruz passed away on July 17, 2003, more than a half million people stood in line for hours in order to pay their respects, in both Miami and New York. Millions more paid tribute to her, holding impromptu memorials in living rooms and crowded street festivals throughout the world. Filled with the sound of her unmistakable voice, as fans played the songs that she will forever be remembered for, the Queen of Salsa's passing was marked with the same celebratory fervor Celia Cruz emulated throughout her life and career; a career that spanned the entire latter half of the twentieth century. Yet Celia Cruz's life had been largely mired in rumor and speculation. When she was alive, Celia Cruz never granted anyone total access to her life story and photo archive. Finally, comes a book that chronicles her own story, in her own words. From her modest childhood in Cuba to her exile years in Mexico to her remarkable career and life in America, Celia was a woman of contrasts. Her flamboyant costumes contrasted with her simple and straightforward demeanor. She was open and accessible to her fans, but staunchly private about her personal life. She was uninhibited without decadence, honest without offense, confident but not arrogant, and generous without fault. Yet above all, Celia was authentic, and it was this authenticity that resonated so deeply with her public. Based on more than five hundred hours of taped interviews recorded just months before her death, Celia includes never-before-published personal photos and anecdotes, letting fans glimpse a life that, while lived in the full view of the public, had remained largely private. Celia celebrates the soul of a life blessed with talent -- strengthened by an unquestioned work ethic as well as an unwavering faith in God and humanity -- in these, her final words to the public she adored, and who equally loved her back.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"How did a little black girl from Santos Suárez [a poor, working-class Havana neighborhood] come so far?" asks Cruz. One answer: "Only God knows why I've been so fortunate." Another explanation is that Cruz's success derived from her inimitable vocal style, passion for Cuba and its music, and her desire to keep expanding her oeuvre by recording with new artists and embracing all types of Cuban music (rumba, cha-cha, mambo, etc.) is less a focal point of this book, but emerges nonetheless as the reason for her eventual status as "a cross-cultural, cross-generational phenomenon," according to People magazine. Cruz (1925–2003) recalls performances with many of the world's greatest musicians, including touring with the famous Sonora Matancera Orchestra and bringing salsa music to the U.S., South America, Asia and Europe. Although Cruz prefers to reminisce about her fabulous life rather than explain her connection to the music that came to define her, her autobiography, conversational in tone, neatly tells the story of a woman who bravely left her beloved homeland for a better life and wound up bettering the lives of many others with her powerful music. Photos. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Ana Cristina Reymundo has been the Editorial Director of Nexos magazine since 1998. She has been the recipient of numerous awards, including Hispanic Media's 100's list of Top 100 US Hispanic journalists. She lives in Hurst, Texas. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Nice that it is Celia's own words, but it really does not give details about her life the way I wanted. Mostly focuses on artistic accomplishments.

Thank you Celia, for sharing your life with us! Latin or any other nationality, it would benefit you learn about Celia Cruz. Beside being an amazing performer and world known singer, she shares this gift of entertainment with the world with so much love, and yes, Azucar! Wonderfully shared in this reading! Thanks!

An excellent read! Her life story written by herself!

Que Triste Me hace, Pero Que Feliz tambien porque Celia Era Una/es Persona Tan Linda, Una Voz Lindisama. Que Libro. In Paz Descanse Celia mi Negrita Cubana Y La Reina.How sad it makes me, Yet How Happy also, Because Celia Was/Is A Beautiful Person, So Beautiful, Beautiful Voice. Great Book, Rest in Peace Celia MyCuban Queen.. Highly Recommend this book. I have it in spanish.Makes Me Feel proud to be of Cuban Parents and Family.

The book is like new I was very impressed

Excellent book

:-)

what a wonderful, well written book about an amazing women. I can highly recommend this book.

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