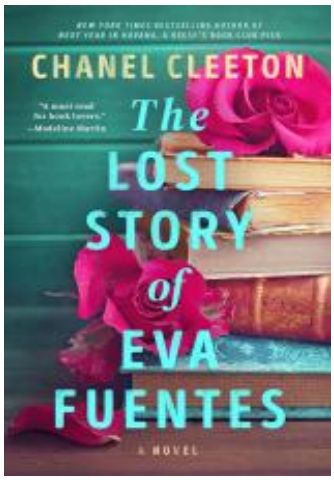
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The Lost Story of Eva Fuentes

by Chanel Cleeton



About the Book

A mysterious book with a legacy spanning from the beginning of the 20th century to the present day unites three women --- and their secrets --- in this unforgettable novel from *New York Times* bestselling author Chanel Cleeton.

London, 2024: American expat Margo Reynolds is renowned for her talent at sourcing rare antiques for her clients, but she?s never had a request quite like this one. She?s been hired to find a mysterious book published over a century ago. With a single copy left in existence, it has a storied past shrouded in secrecy --- and her client isn?t the only person determined to procure it at any cost.

Havana, 1966: Librarian Pilar Castillo has devoted her life to books, and in the chaotic days following her husband?s unjust imprisonment by Fidel Castro, reading is her only source of solace. So when a neighbor fleeing Cuba asks her to return a valuable book to its rightful owner, Pilar will risk everything to protect the literary work entrusted to her care. It?s a dangerous mission that reveals to her the power of one book to change a life.

Boston, 1900: For Cuban school teacher and aspiring author Eva Fuentes, traveling from Havana to Harvard to study for the summer is the opportunity of a lifetime. It?s a whirlwind adventure that leaves her little time to write, but a moonlit encounter with an enigmatic stranger changes everything. The story that pours out of her is one of forbidden love, secrets and lies?and though Eva cannot see it yet, the book will be a danger and salvation for the lives it touches.

Discussion Guide

1. The novel alternates between three heroines in three different time periods --- Eva in 1900, Pilar in 1966, and Margo in 2024. Which heroine did you identify with most?

2. All three heroines are trying to find their place in society and their purpose in the times in which they live. How do

they find their voices? What empowers them? What challenges do they face?

3. Both Eva and Pilar have experienced trauma in the political events they have lived through. How do they process that trauma? What similarities do you see in their circumstances? What differences? What has given you solace during the difficult times in your own life?

4. The titular character Eva Fuentes embarks on an adventure when she participates in the largest Cuban-American cultural exchange as she travels to Harvard to attend a summer school for Cuban teachers. Have you ever been part of a similar exchange or study abroad? What was it like? What takeaways did you draw from the experience?

5. While they love each other very much, Margo and Luke struggle with juggling the demands of their careers and the different paths they envision for their marriage, as well as the impact their family of origin has on them. Did you identify with some of the challenges they faced? Do you think they?ll be able to overcome them? How does their relationship evolve throughout the novel?

6. Margo?s job involves sourcing rare antiques and special items for her clients, and she feels like in her own way she is a custodian of their histories. Are there special family mementos that have been passed down in your own family, or have you found your own items with unique histories?

7. THE LOST STORY OF EVA FUENTES centers on a novel that changes the lives of the three main characters in different ways. Is there a special book that has changed your life?

8. Pilar safeguards books for Cubans leaving the country in exile. The books that she?s tasked with hiding often have some special meaning for their owner. If you faced a situation where you could save only one book, which one would you choose to save and why?

9. All three heroines have jobs that allow them to interact with books in different ways. If you had to choose a job in the book world, which one would you choose? Why?

10. Pilar believes that if someone doesn?t love to read, it?s because they haven?t found the right book for them yet. Have you been a lifelong reader, or was there a specific book or event that ignited your love of reading?

11. Pilar talks about some of her favorite authors. Who are your favorite authors? What do you love about their books?

Author Bio

Chanel Cleeton is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of AN INFINITE LOVE STORY, THE LOST STORY OF EVA FUENTES, THE HOUSE ON BISCAYNE BAY, THE CUBAN HEIRESS, OUR LAST DAYS IN BARCELONA, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN CUBA, THE LAST TRAIN TO KEY WEST, WHEN WE LEFT CUBA and Reese?s Book Club pick NEXT YEAR IN HAVANA. She received a bachelor?s degree in International Relations from Richmond, The American International University in London, and a master?s degree in Global Politics from the London School of Economics & Political Science. Chanel also received her Juris Doctor from the University of

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