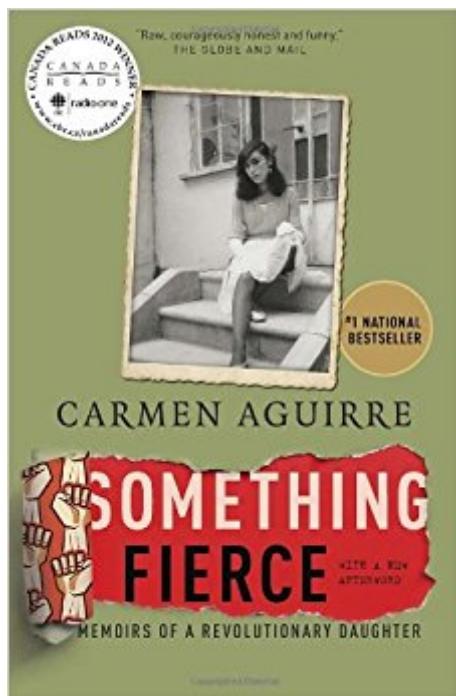


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Something Fierce: Memoirs Of A Revolutionary Daughter



Synopsis

The winner of CBC's Canada Reads 2012, *Something Fierce* by Carmen Aguirre, re-issued by Vintage Canada. Six-year-old Carmen Aguirre fled to Canada with her family following General Augusto Pinochet's violent 1973 coup in Chile. Five years later, when her mother and stepfather returned to South America as Chilean resistance members, Carmen and her sister went with them, quickly assuming double lives of their own. At 18, Carmen became a militant herself, plunging further into a world of terror, paranoia and euphoria. *Something Fierce* takes the reader inside war-ridden Peru, dictator-ruled Bolivia, post-Malvinas Argentina and Pinochet's Chile in the eventful decade between 1979 and 1989. Dramatic, suspenseful and darkly comic, it is a rare first-hand account of revolutionary life and a passionate argument against forgetting.

Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

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Customer Reviews

Revolution equals "terror. Paranoia." So writes Aguirre as she tells the story of her family's escape from Chile and the 1975 Pinochet-led coup and her growing up with other exiled underground revolutionaries in Canada. In 1979, "The Year of the Return," they relocated to La Paz, which her skillful descriptions bring to life: "Every thief in Bolivia was here . . . to rip people's pockets and purses open . . . and were robbing everybody: skin-kneed believers, nuns." And the plaza with "the bustle of beggars, office workers and businessmen, and Indian women selling dried-up llama fetuses and kiosks displaying beautiful cards of carved bronze and wood and silver." There the exiled family leads double

lives while assisting Chilean blacklisted politicians and other resistors —“from the concentration camps with their scars and broken bodies.” With Chile still under Pinochet’s brutal reign, Aguirre flees to Vancouver in 1989, the revolution lost. A stirring account of a revolutionary’s girlhood. --Whitney Scott --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"A coming-of-age story that blends birthday parties and puppy love with indoctrination in the tradecraft of subversion: how to arrange the delivery of secret documents, how to lose a police tail, how to lead a double life." Toronto Star"Raw, courageously honest and funny; an insightful journey into the formation of a revolutionary soul." The Globe and Mail

This first-hand story of growing up in the Chilean resistance after the Pinochet coup is riveting and revealing. It is utterly unlike anything I have read before, political without becoming polemical, deeply personal but movingly human. There is no room here for the cynicism or distancing prevalent in too many autobiographies and first-person accounts of events. This is raw, moving and almost excruciatingly honest. No wonder it won last year's Canada Reads award. Read this not only to better understand the savagery of the CIA-backed Pinochet coup and its aftermath, but to also understand the motivation, dedication and sacrifices of those committed to combating tyranny not only in Chile, but in nations around the globe.

Although this book was a facinating read, I was disappointed by the end. Throughout the book, Carmen describes her relationship with family. Unfortunately, she doesn't continue with her relationship with her parents. I felt like I was hanging, wondering what had happened between Carmen and her mother in particular. I would have liked a final chapter describing her closest relationships and what happened to those people. There were too many unanswered questions for me.

This read held me captivated from start to finish. Both entertaining and educating me. I highly recommend this book for all audiences

The memoir was informative with details textbooks can't offer. I don't have major complaints. Loved the input of the other characters, particularly her grandma and younger sister.

Great read.

Her story is fantastic. I read this in 3 sittings. I would highly recommend this book. Can't wait till my daughters are old enough to read it.

Would recommend this book. Nice to have a different perspective on South American politics. The author did a good job of portraying the life of the child affected by the political strife.

New insight into a world I did not have a whole bunch of knowledge, revealed itself in this book. Although it did not cover a topic I embrace, the life of the children involved in this dishevelled journey was worth the read .

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