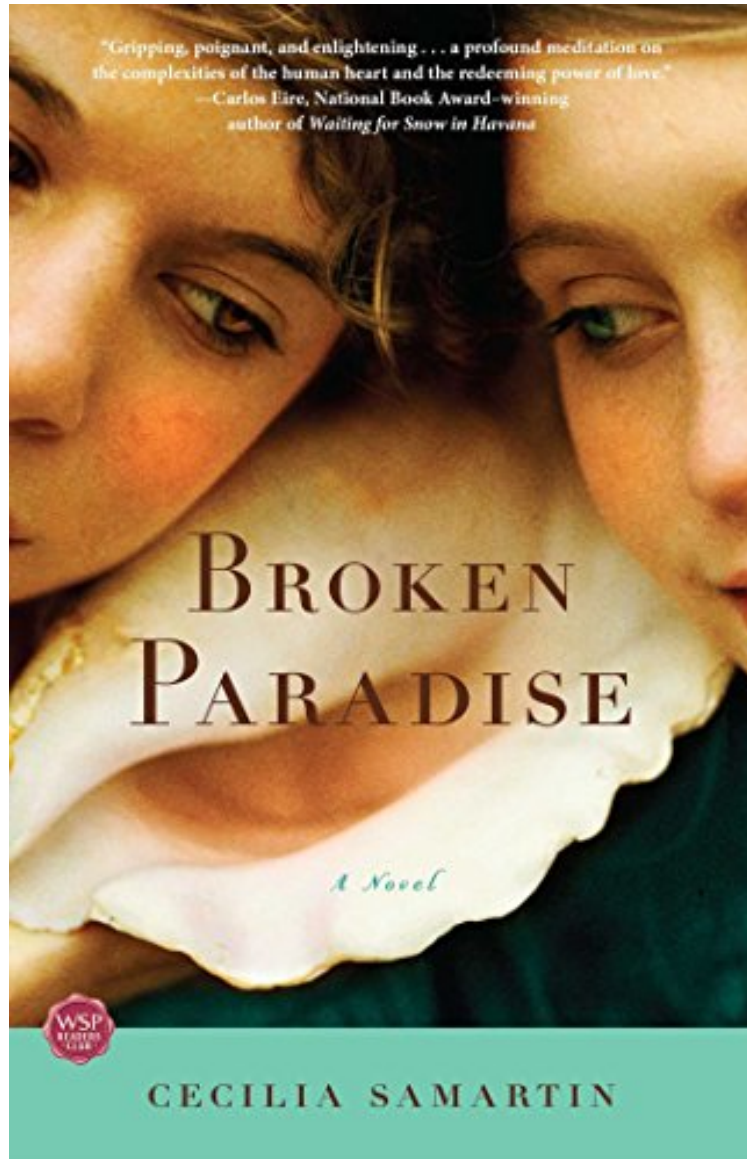


[Download] Broken Paradise: A Novel (English Edition)

Broken Paradise: A Novel (English Edition)

Von Cecilia Samartin

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Von Cecilia Samartin : Broken Paradise: A Novel (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Broken Paradise: A Novel (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A STUNNING DEBUT NOVEL...Von lawyeraauThis is a beautifully written novel that held me spellbound. It is simply one of the best books that I have read. Rich in its imagery and evocative of a time gone by, the author paints a vivid

picture of the Cuban experience, both before and after Fidel Castro's revolution. Steeped in nostalgia, the experience is seen through the eyes of two young cousins, Nora and Alicia, daughters of privileges in pre-Castro Cuba. Their story begins in 1956. Nora and Alicia are just coming of age and enjoying all the benefits of a pampered lifestyle, when the world around them begins to shift, as the rise of Castro causes Cuba to irrevocably change. Alicia stays in Cuba with her family, as Alicia's father believes that Castro's story will be one of here today, gone tomorrow. Nora's father, on the other hand, feels the need to flee Castro's Cuba. Thus, the cousins are parted, as Nora escapes to the United States with her family, exiled from her beloved island. What happens to Nora and Alicia is seen through a series of letters exchanged by the cousins over time. Nora struggles to fit into her new life in the United States, a stranger in a strange land, while Alicia tries to cope with the extreme hardships and problems presented by Fidel Castro's vision for Cuba. What happens to both is heartbreaking, and the author paints an indelible portrait of their lives for the reader, handling the thematically profound nuances of their story with elegance and grace. This is simply a stunning debut novel that will keep readers riveted, bringing tears to the eyes of its readers, so moving is the story contained within the pages of this book. Richly textured and beautifully realized, this novel about love and redemption is a testament to the endurance of the human spirit. The author lovingly and masterfully captures the essence of being Cuban and, as I am a Cuban-American, this book spoke to me and reached a place in my heart that had long been dormant. This is simply a novel that will long be remembered and one that should be read by those who love great books. Those who enjoyed reading the "The Kite Runner" will especially enjoy this book. Bravo!

Kurzbeschreibung In Broken Paradise Cecilia Samartin offers heart wrenching insight into the tender balance between hope and grief that shapes the immigrant heart and exposes the struggles of everyday people amid political turmoil. Cuba, 1956: Cousins Nora and Alicia are accustomed to living among Havana's privileged class -- lavish dinners, days at the beach, dances, and dresses. Their idyllic lives take a turn for the worst after Castro's rise to power. Food becomes scarce, religion is forbidden, and disease is rampant. Alicia stays behind while Nora emigrates to the United States and struggles in an unfamiliar land. Both of their identities are challenged as they try to adapt to the changes forced upon them. The situation in Cuba deteriorates and Alicia is beset by bad fortune, while Nora painfully assimilates into middle-class U.S. culture. Her heart, however, remains in Cuba. Letters between the cousins track their lives until Alicia's situation becomes so difficult that Nora is forced to return and help. But what she finds in Cuba is like nothing she has ever imagined. Broken Paradise is an extraordinarily powerful novel about passion, love, and the heart's yearning for home. **Pressestimmen** "Gripping, poignant, and enlightening...a profound meditation on the complexities of the human heart and the redeeming power of love." -- Carlos Eire, National Book Award-winning author of *Waiting for Snow in Havana* "It's like drinking a full bottle of Cabernet by yourself." -- New Zealand Public Radio "I dare anyone not to be moved...the book is ultimately uplifting -- a testimony to the strength of love and the human spirit." -- Traveller Magazine "A heart wrenching story of separation, love, and redemption gently told through two cousins as they confront the political realities of Castro's revolution and its aftermath. This is a story I can truly identify with. It is a story that Cecilia Samartin has told with astounding courage and grace." -- Viviana Carballo, author of *Havana Salsa: Stories and Recipes* "Cecilia Samartin delivers a novel rich in passion, heartbreak and love. Broken Paradise captures the textures and rhythms of my homeland of Cuba with its musical, agile prose and kept me engrossed to the last page. An important, timely work of fiction, it goes to the heart of what it means to be an exile. A truly American story." -- Victor Rivas Rivers, actor and author of *A Private Family Matter* "A nostalgic story that sieves smoothly in the folds of our memory, transporting us to a universe of flavors, unforgettable colors and Cuban landscapes. A tribute to those who live far from their homelands." -- Javier Sierra, author of New York Times bestseller *The Secret Supper* "Cecilia Samartin writes with shimmering grace about homeland and exile, passion and loyalty...A richly textured story, sensuous and haunting." -- Janet Fitch, author of *White Oleander* "She spins a gripping tale." -- Kirkus s **Kurzbeschreibung** In Broken Paradise Cecilia Samartin offers heart wrenching insight into the tender balance between hope and grief that shapes the immigrant heart and exposes the struggles of everyday people amid political turmoil. Cuba, 1956: Cousins Nora and Alicia are accustomed to living among Havana's privileged class -- lavish dinners, days at the beach, dances, and dresses. Their idyllic lives take a turn for the worst after Castro's rise to power. Food becomes scarce, religion is forbidden, and disease is rampant. Alicia stays behind while Nora emigrates to the United States and struggles in an unfamiliar land. Both of their identities are challenged as they try to adapt to the changes forced upon them. The situation in Cuba deteriorates and Alicia is beset by bad fortune, while Nora painfully assimilates into middle-class U.S. culture. Her heart, however, remains in Cuba. Letters between the cousins track their lives until Alicia's situation becomes so difficult that Nora is forced to return and help. But what she finds in Cuba is like nothing she has ever imagined. Broken Paradise is an extraordinarily powerful novel about passion, love, and the heart's yearning for home.