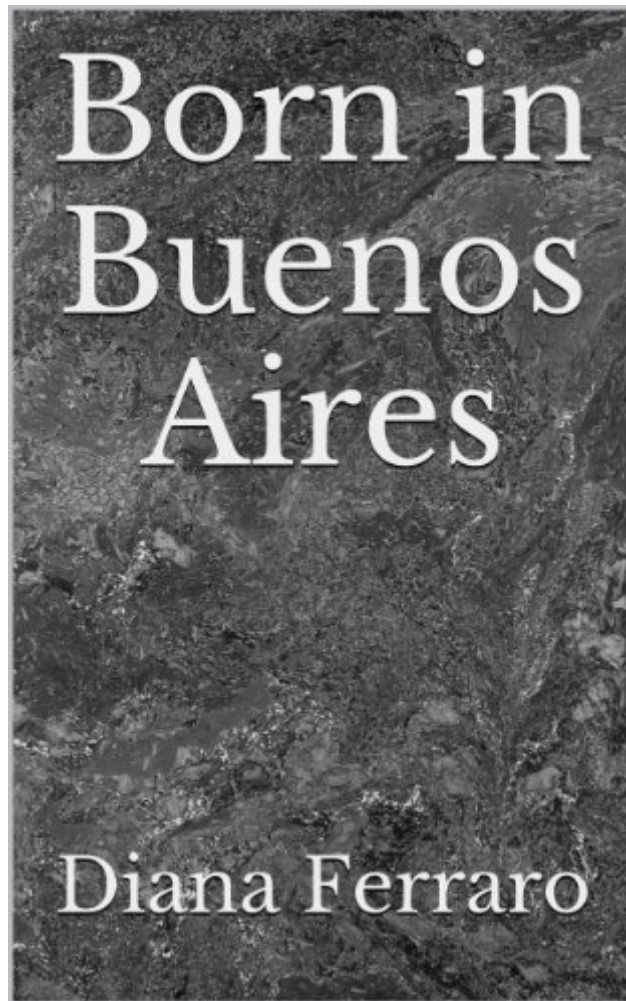




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Born In Buenos Aires



Synopsis

A brief memoir about the historical, political and cultural aspects of Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This brief memoir represents the "de profundis" confession of an Argentine woman and more especially, a native of Buenos Aires. Quite surprisingly - at least for me, who was prepared to read yet another conventional autobiography - and with impressive sincerity, Ms Ferraro describes exactly what it means to be born and live in this South American country, so rich in natural resources, while being of Spanish origin - what it means, moreover, to be a descendant of the original conquerors who once killed or simply removed indigenous peoples from the land in order to usurp it. It has historically been in the nature of every stronger or more technologically advanced people/tribe/civilization/city-state/nation to want to conquer and control another's resources - whether natural or human. Argentina (which derives from the Latin word "argentum," meaning silver) is merely one more such victim of this "tradition." History has repeatedly proved that every "paradise on earth" is by default in such peril. Quite ironically, places rich in natural resources also prove to be

a curse for their inhabitants (in the case of Argentina, as much for the natives as for the settlers.) Before I read BORN IN BUENOS AIRES the name "Argentina" used to sound exotic to my ear - and was additionally associated with names like Juan and especially Evita Peron, Che Guevara, Jorge Luis Borges, Jorge Bucay ... as well as Rio de la Plata, Maradona, tango, steak (huge and tender!). More recently, Argentina connoted a financial crisis - similar to the one now impacting Greece - only to happily end up with "the shining example of a country that, although bankrupt, refused to borrow from the IMF." Argentina -- which, after having experienced hell, is now recovering and enjoying an economic resurgence. As a native Greek, I'd almost never bothered to contemplate how people in other countries might think and feel (except of course when it was a question of emergencies - e.g. wars, natural disasters etc.) Why should distant Argentina be an exception? How could I possibly empathize with the feeling of not belonging anywhere, since I've spent my entire life in my birthplace? Of course, I'd sometimes heard Greek immigrants describing this terrible feeling of alienation but, even then, my consideration was limited only to my compatriots' situation - never mind that feeling something on your own skin is entirely different from imagining it. While reading BORN IN BUENOS AIRES, I often felt the urge to surf the Internet for more information about the country - not only to better know its history, but also to understand/realize why Argentines depreciate themselves and are constantly dreaming of an escape from the land of their birth. As I reached the final page, I realized that this little memoir had managed to awaken my interest to learn what is possibly hidden beneath the surface of both the events and the people of Argentina. In my opinion, this is what makes BORN IN BUENOS AIRES worth reading - and even more significant than the many bold "revelations" concerning a nation for which, quite mysteriously (given the huge geographical distance between us), I have deep feelings of friendship and familiarity.

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