

XAVIER ALCALÁ



# HABANA FLASH



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# Habana flash

A writer travels to Cuba in search of his roots and in so doing faces a series of demystifying experiences and encounters with the emigrant past and the revolutionary present of the last great colony of Spain.

## Synopsis

*Havana Flash* is a travel book converted into fiction. Xavier Alcalá, a writer with an impressive literary trajectory, chooses to write about a trip in which he searches for the places in which his grandfather made his fortune. Fiction is so close to reality that some of the characters appear with their real name while others (the revolutionaries frustrated with Fidel) are carefully redrawn to hide their true identity as they could otherwise face severe punishment for providing the author with certain information. Despite this literary license, *Havana Flash* reveals a great amount of truth, thereby making it almost impossible not to view this book as the story of Cuba that not even Fidel wanted to recognize.

Ten years later, another writer with Cuban roots, Marcelino Fernández Mallo, revisits the visions of Xavier Alcalá and dedicates a preface and prologue in which he talks about the contemporary nature of the book's message.

Thanks to his characteristic skill and the use of a light and quick prose common to travel writing, Xavier Alcalá manages to construct the Cuban reality that flows from the present to the past and that seemingly gets lost in the chaos.

## Sales Pitch

**ANNIVERSARY:** The Cuba Revolution celebrated its 50th anniversary on January 1, 2009.

**STYLE:** This is travel writing turned into fiction. In *Havana Flash*, the author starts a journey in search of his family roots and finds himself face to face with both the Cuba's emigrant past and the chaotic revolutionary present of Fidel Castro.

**CUBA, A TOPIC OF CURRENT INTEREST:** Cuba always appears in the headlines of the newspapers, especially now that the island is on the verge of facing a new reality.

**LITERARY TECHNIQUE:** This is a book written with a gentle prose by which the author mixes the style of journalistic documentation with that of realistic fiction.

**DEMYTHOLOGIZES THE REVOLUTION:** By interchanging experiences with real people from Cuba in his visits to diverse places, the author manages to create a true and critical representation of the Cuban present in a way that demythologizes the Revolution.

**THE AUTHOR:** Xavier Alcalá is a point of reference on Galician culture and literature.

**Publishing Date:** April 14, 2009 **Serie:** Narrativa Nowtilus **Author:** Xavier Alcalá  
**Size:** 16x23,5 cm **Format:** Paperback with flaps **Pages:** 272 **isbn:** 9788497637268



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## In the same serie

### Xavier Alcalá

Xavier Alcalá was born in Miguelturra (Ciudad Real) in 1947. He began to publish in 1971 and since then has written over a thousand articles and thirty books. For his work he has received the Pérez Lugín Award in journalism and the Pedrón de Ouro and Manuel Murguía Awards for short stories. He has received the Cidade da Coruña (City of La Coruña) and the Crítica Española (Spanish Critics) Awards for his novel *Fábula*, the Blanco Amor Award for his book *Alén da Desventura*, and the Crítica de Galicia (Critics of Galicia) Award for *Nas catacumbas*. His best known novel is *A nosa cinza*, which has sold more than 70,000 copies. He has published travel writing stories like *Argentina or Viaxes no país de Elal*.

#### PREFACE AND PROLOGUE:

Marcelino Fernández Mallo is an economist and Galician writer. He is a contributor to *Radio Galega* and is the author of the novel *A trenza*, which was published by Ézaro Publishing in 2007.



### Beyond the snail

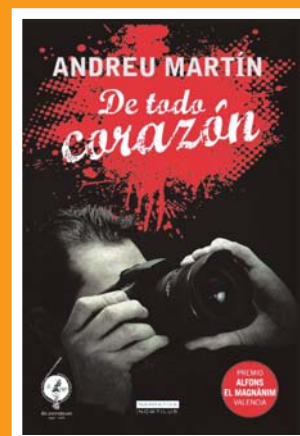
Daniel Atienza

Right before dying, David must figure out the tragic error of his life so as to continue with his journey to the afterworld.

### With all my heart

Andreu Martín

A corpse, an assassin and many suspects...A murder on a television set has shaken the world of tabloid journalism.



### Olga's long journey

Yolanda Sheuber

From the Russian steppe to the Argentine Pampa, a 12 year old girl lives a story of love and self-improvement in a world shocked by two world wars