



Something Fierce: Memoirs of a Revolutionary Daughter

By Carmen Aguirre

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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.

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Editorial Review

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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 resisters “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

Review

"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*

About the Author

CARMEN AGUIRRE is a Vancouver-based writer and theatre artist who has worked extensively in North and South America. She has written or co-written 20 plays, including *The Refugee Hotel*, which was nominated for a 2010 Dora Mavor Moore Award for best new play. Her most recent one-woman show is *Blue Box*. Aguirre has 60 film, TV and stage acting credits, including lead roles in the Showcase series *Endgame* and *Quinceañera*, winner of the Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival. *Something Fierce* won Canada Reads in 2012, was a finalist for the Charles Taylor Prize, and was a #1 National Bestseller.

Users Review

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Velma Stuart:

This book entitled *Something Fierce: Memoirs of a Revolutionary Daughter* to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this guide you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book retail outlet or you can order it through online. The publisher on this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, because you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason for you to past this guide from your list.

William Reynolds:

Exactly why? Because this *Something Fierce: Memoirs of a Revolutionary Daughter* is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap it but latter it will surprise you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such awesome way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of gains than the other book include such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

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