



MEMOIR / LATINA LITERATURE

*Camino del Sol*

**September**

192 pp.

6 x 9

ISBN 978-0-8165-2815-8 **\$16.95** paper

Use the code  
“FLR” and take  
**20% OFF!!**

Contact us at:

**1-800-426-3797**

[www.uapress.arizona.edu](http://www.uapress.arizona.edu)

The University of Arizona Press  
355 S. Euclid Ave., Suite 103  
Tucson, AZ 85719

# Havana and Other Missing Fathers

MIA LEONIN

*A lyrical and powerful journey of discovery*

Mia Leonin spent the first sixteen years of her life believing her father was dead. All she knew of the man came through stories told by her mother. At times he had been a surgeon, at others a psychiatrist. In truth, he had been a fantasy.

Shortly after her sixteenth birthday, Leonin learned from her mother that her father, a Cuban exile, was very much alive and living in Florida. Her attempts to contact him, however, were thwarted until four years later, when she left home in search of her roots.

She meets her father, but trying to discover the truth behind him proves to be a more daunting task. Her journey takes her to Miami, Colombia, and Cuba, and her search for cultural identity leads her to create memories, friendships, and romances. She finds moments of connection and redemption, ending up in Havana not as a cultural tourist but as an illegitimate daughter of Cuba looking for validation. What she discovers is an island bereft of fathers and brimming with paternalism. As she becomes entangled with two different men, she descends further into the Havana of poverty, humiliation, and despair, as well as the ever-inventive city that is as passionate as it is contradictory.

Insightful, imaginative, and often poetic, *Havana and Other Missing Fathers* is Mia Leonin's recollection of this journey and her longing to learn more about her origins. In the end, she must learn to accept the answers she discovers as well as the questions that remain.

**MIA LEONIN** is a creative writing instructor at the University of Miami. She is the author of two books of poetry, *Braid* and *Unraveling the Bed*.

*“Bold, sexy, **utterly compelling**, Mia Leonin’s search for her Cuban father is a richly rendered story of love for the language of the human heart.” — A. Manette Ansay, author of *Vinegar Hill**

*“This is a marvelous book, a pure meditation on what it is to be searching for one’s father, bringing together two disparate worlds. This is a writer of ample gifts and talent, and to read her words, to read her enchanting book, is to fall in love with her characters. I haven’t read a book this good and **riveting** in a great long time. Bravo, Miss Leonin!” —Virgil Suárez, author of *Spared Angola: Memories from a Cuban-American Childhood**

*“No es fácil, this business of learning to dance as a Cuban, one syllable at a time. But in Mia Leonin’s **stirring memoir**, it becomes a lyrical journey where from the absence of fathers and fatherlands, women write themselves into being.” — Frances Negrón-Muntaner, editor of *None of the Above: Puerto Ricans in the Global Era**