



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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Adele Rowan:

The knowledge that you get from *Something Fierce: Memoirs of a Revolutionary Daughter* is a more deep you excavating the information that hide into the words the more you get interested in reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to recognise but *Something Fierce: Memoirs of a Revolutionary Daughter* giving you buzz feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood through anyone who read it because the author of this book is well-known enough. This book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this *Something Fierce: Memoirs of a Revolutionary Daughter* instantly.

Deborah Hayes:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book might be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the guide untitled Something Fierce: Memoirs of a Revolutionary Daughter can be excellent book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

Anita Cannon:

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Phillis Ries:

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