



CONTACT:
Elizabeth Garriga
Publicity Manager
Atria Books
212.698.7026
elizabeth.garriga@simonandschuster.com

RECLAIMING PARIS

A NOVEL

FABIOLA SANTIAGO

Switching perfumes whenever she changes lovers, a woman seeks refuge from the loss of her family and her country in **RECLAIMING PARIS**—the beguiling debut novel from the prize-winning *Miami Herald* journalist Fabiola Santiago



“Men are like perfumes. In an instant, with nothing but a whiff of judgment, I either love them or discard them. When I love them, I fall blindly in lust with their scent, and for a while I can think of no other. I fancy that our match will last forever, and convince myself that I have discovered the most wonderful man (perfume) in the world.”

“I like my men the way I like my perfumes, with a lot of poetry. I lost my virginity to Wind Song, built a career on White Linen, saved myself with Miracle. I prefer the complicated scents, the ones that are hard to find, like Habanita.”

So begins Fabiola Santiago’s beautiful and clever debut novel, **RECLAIMING PARIS** (Atria Books; \$24.95; September 16, 2008).



Fabiola Santiago was born in Matanzas, Cuba, in the spring of 1959, three months after the triumph of the Cuban Revolution. Before her parents fled to Miami on a Freedom Flight in 1969, she spent her summers digging her feet into the softest sands in the world and frolicking in the bluest water. She grew up enamored of her family’s stories and her native city’s cultural legacy as “the Athens of Cuba,” the birthplace of poets and artists.

Renowned for her powerful words and storytelling, Santiago has translated her passion for art and culture into a career as a features writer at the *Miami Herald*, where she has worked since 1980. She is also the author of a myriad of essays, poetry, and short fiction, and was the founding city editor of the Spanish-language *El Nuevo Herald*. She’s been lauded for her writing numerous times, including twice being part of a Pulitzer Prize-winning team – in 1992 for her coverage of Hurricane Andrew, and again in 2001 for coverage of the Elián González story.

•OVER•

Now, Santiago shares her love for her native Cuba and its diverse culture with her debut novel, **RECLAIMING PARIS**, a sensuous and mysterious tale of one woman's journey toward self-discovery.

All of her life, forty-five-year-old Marisol has yearned for the family and country she left behind when she was abruptly exiled to the United States from Cuba with her grandmother when Marisol was only ten. Growing up in Miami during the height of the refugee influx during the 1970s and 80s, Marisol heard countless stories about the beauty, culture, and inhabitants of her native island. But what remained a mystery is the story of her own family – a story that her grandmother refused to talk about while she was alive.

Although Marisol sees herself as distinctly American, after the death of her loving but taciturn grandmother, she feels an even greater sense of loss, and she tries to fill the void with a series of romantic relationships with Cuban men – each of whom she connects with a different perfume. Throwing caution to the wind, she decides to take a leave of absence from her life and explore the world.

From Madrid to Barcelona, to Paris, and back to Miami, Marisol experiences an adventure of a lifetime as she discovers intense, yet doomed, love, transitional and healing love, exotic new scents. Finally, after a hauntingly troubled relationship with a married man, Marisol learns the story of her family and the reason why she and her grandmother left Cuba. Through these discoveries, Marisol is finally able to exonerate her past and its ghosts, enabling her to embark on a new life as a free spirit.

Utterly moving and ultimately inspiring, **RECLAIMING PARIS** is a powerful and lyrical story, an ingenious debut novel that is as profound as it is entertaining.

Fabiola Santiago is a features writer and art critic for the *Miami Herald*, where she has worked since 1980. She is also the author of essays, poetry, and short fiction, and has twice been awarded a Pulitzer Prize. She currently lives in a house that is architecturally inspired by the houses of old Cuba and is filled with contemporary Cuban art and memorabilia. **RECLAIMING PARIS** is her first novel.

To learn more about Fabiola Santiago and her work, visit her website at www.fabiolasantiago.com.

RECLAIMING PARIS **A Novel**

By Fabiola Santiago

Published by: Atria Books
ISBN: 1-41655-112-3
Pages: 320
Price: \$24.95
Pub Date: September 16, 2008