

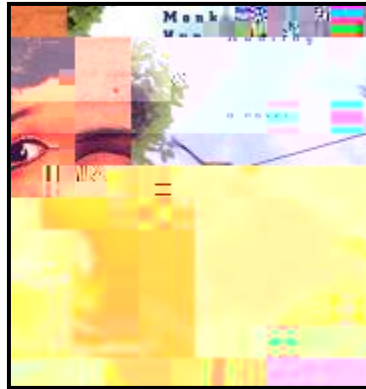
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*Born:* July 4, 1958 in Havana, Cuba; Immigrated to the U.S. in 1960

*Works:* - *Dreaming in Cuban*. Knopf, 1992  
- *Cars of Cuba*. H.N. Abrams, 1995  
- *The Agüero Sisters*. Knopf, 1997  
- *Monkey Hunting*. Knopf, 2003

*Education:*

Barnard College, BA in Political Science 1979  
Johns Hopkins University, MA in European and Latin American Studies 1981



*Career:*

Time (magazine);  
Reporter and Researcher, 1983-85  
Correspondent, 1985-90  
Miami Bureau Chief, 1987-88  
University of Southern California  
English Department, 1995 -

*Awards:*

National Book Award Finalist, 1992  
Hodder Fellowship, Princeton, 1992-93  
Cintas Fellowship, 1992-93  
Guggenheim Fellowship, 1994  
Whiting Writers Award, 1996

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Cristina Garcia is the first Cuban-American woman to publish a novel written in English. Although born in Havana, Cuba, she immigrated to the United States with her parents in 1960 when she was only two years old in order to flee the effects of the Castro led revolution. Her family settled first in Queens, New York and then in Brooklyn Heights where they operated a restaurant and bar in which Cristina later worked. At home Garcia spoke English as her first language and she attended Catholic grade schools followed by her undergraduate education at Columbia University's Barnard College, graduating with a BA in Political Science in 1979. She also attended Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies in Baltimore with an eye toward a career in the Foreign Service. Instead, Garcia went to work for *Time* magazine as a reporter, researcher and correspondent, and for a brief period she served as Miami Bureau Chief. While in Miami, Garcia was surrounded by the rich and vibrant culture of the local Cuban community, an environment that further inspired her creativity and desire to begin writing about her own experiences and those of fellow Cuban-Americans. Around 1990 she began to move away from journalism toward writing fiction, a transition that resulted in the 1992 publication of her critically acclaimed first novel, *Dreaming in Cuban*. Choosing to write a multigenerational story interspersed with political and familial conflict, Garcia's novel was described by *New York Times* reviewer Michiko Kakutani as "Fierce, visionary, and at the same time oddly beguiling and funny, 'Dreaming in Cuban' is a completely original novel. It announces the debut of a writer, blessed with a poet's ear for language, a historian's fascination with the past and a musician's intuitive understanding of the ebb and flow of emotion." There are aspects of *Dreaming in Cuban* that closely parallel Garcia's own life story of a daughter who is born into one culture, but raised in another, and who must therefore reconcile the uneasy balance between two

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Davis, Thulani. "Fidel Came Between Them." *New York Times Book Review*. 17 May 1992: 14.

Eder, Richard. "Cuban Revolution Tugs on Family Ties." *Los Angeles Times*. 12 March 1992: E10.

Kakutani, Michiko. "The Dreams and Yearnings of a Family of Exiles." *New York Times*. 25 Feb. 1992: C17.