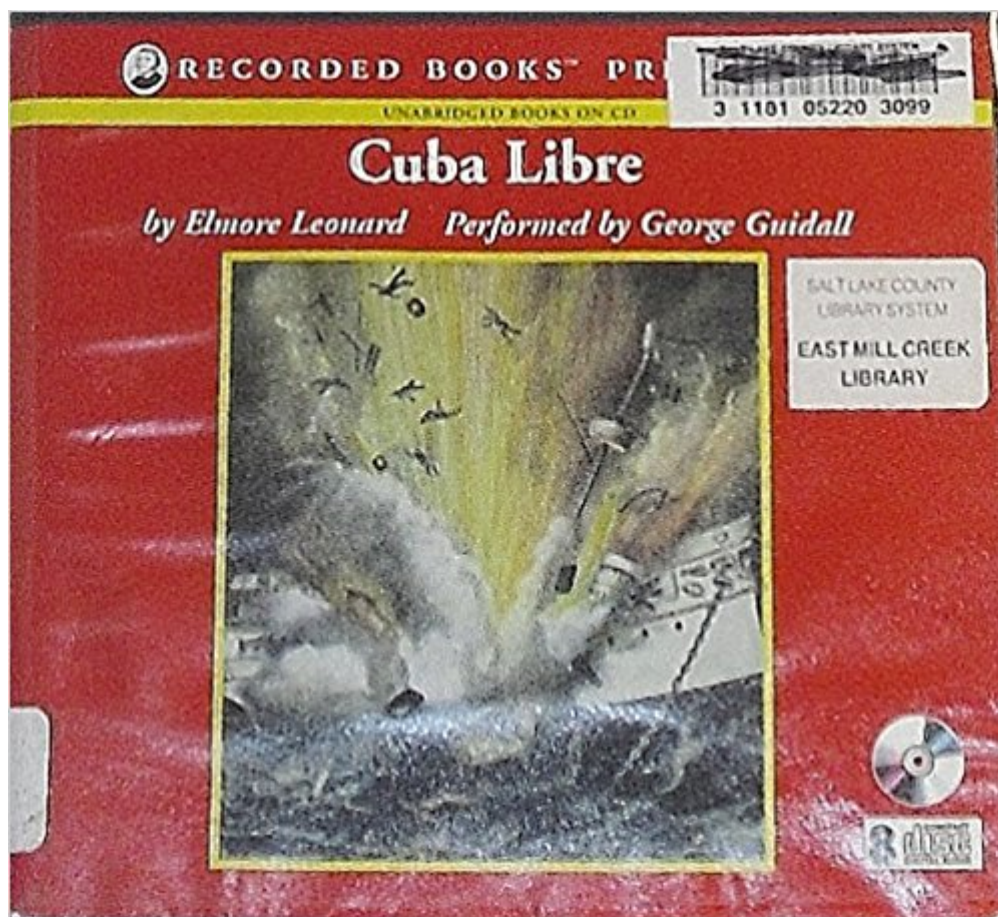


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# Cuba Libre



## Synopsis

On a hot night in Havana Harbor, U.S. marines sleep on the deck of the USS Maine as the sound of rumba music drifts across the water. Then, in a flash, the Maine is blown to pieces. Now a bloody carnival of war, nations, and schemers is exploding on the dusty, sugar-rich island of Cuba. Master storyteller Elmore Leonard breaks new ground in this rip-roaring novel, a rollicking jaunt into history that sizzles with the passion of lovers, the violence of nations, and the courage of freedom fighters crying out to their firing squads: "Viva Cuba Libre!" --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

Audio CD

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Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 97 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #5,123,443 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 in [Books > Books on CD](#) > [Authors, A-Z](#) > ( L ) > [Leonard, Elmore](#) #22199 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > General](#) #160291 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical](#)

## Customer Reviews

"Explosive...exciting...keeps the reader glued to the pages."--Chicago Sun-Times  
"There is so much good storytelling in this novel...there are few writers who can match Leonard when it comes to narrative moves, none who write dialogues that say so little and mean so much."--San Francisco Chronicle  
"Elmore Leonard's most exciting book in years."--The Wall Street Journal --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

I have loved every one of Elmore Leonard's novels so far. This one, set not in the Old West, or yet modern times, when the cowboy era was really over and people had the telegraph and typing machines and steam-engines to power armor-plated ships with powerful guns. Ben Tyler, a real cowboy, having done time for bank robbery - not his fault, as he had been cheated out of the cost of his livestock and merely withdrew the amount owed to him - at the point of a gun - found himself back in Cuba in 1998. Just after the Maine had been blown up and near the place he had lived a a boy long years ago. In contrast to the greedy, corrupt Spanish officials and psychotic, cruel military

authorities and greedy, avaricious dishonest businessmen and long-suffering, honest peasants, Tyler is steady, courageous, resourceful (he is a cowboy), not vengeful, but he takes his due. Interesting background information about the Maine event and the historical situation in Cuba. Leonard presents some points of view, but leaves it for the reader to decide what he wants to believe was the truth.

Cuba Libre is a fast-paced, entertaining jaunt through 1890s Cuba, at the outbreak of war between America and Spain. It's also a wonderful return to the western genre for author Elmore Leonard, whose first efforts were exclusively western stories throughout the 1950s and 60s. This is the story of Ben Tyler, an American cowboy sent to Cuba to sell horses to a sugar plantation. As tensions rise between America and Spain, Tyler is caught up in the intrigue and danger of revolutionary Cuba as he seeks justice, and a fair deal. Leonard's trademark wit, snappy dialogue, entertaining characters, and fast-paced action are all here, making this both an entertaining western and a must for every Leonard fan.

I started reading Elmore Leonard books starting in around 1988 and would read every new book that came out. I skipped Cuba Libre because I was not as interested in his westerns. Since I don't expect any new books anymore, I started reading the westerns. I recently read Gunsights. So I thought I would go ahead and read Cuba Libre. Not only was it a good read, I found it related to other novels. The main character was from the same setting as Gunsights. Tyler is the bad ass found in most of Leonard's books. In Cuba, Tyler comes in contact with Carl Webster's father, Virgil. Carl Webster, a sort of a Raylin type, was the subject of three books. Although these all these books were many years apart. I highly recommend this book.

Bought for a friend

Leonard draws characters with a fine hand. My enjoyment of the story was marred by a technical glitch in this ebook. Chapter 20 is repeated at the start of Chapter 21.

As always, Leonard offers fully developed interesting characters. This book was a pleasure to read. Probably his best work ever.

I am reviewing the audio version of this book, which I bought off the "used" rack at . The four

two-sided tapes tell the unabridged story. I found it a little long, with a few too many characters to follow on tape. Although the historical setting is interesting, the story lacks the manic quality of Leonard's best books. It's never funny, the plot is a little slow, the dialogue is stilted, and that one truly scuzzy character who enlivens his best books is missing from the action.

Regular Elmore Leonard, hard to put down, several nice twists and turns.

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