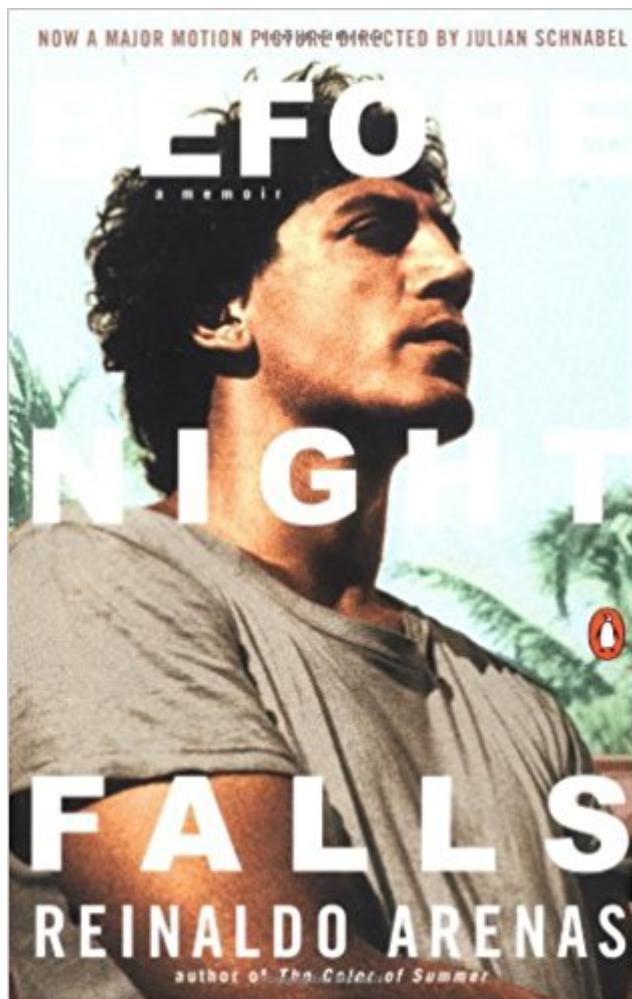


The book was found

Before Night Falls: A Memoir



Synopsis

The shocking memoir by visionary Cuban writer Reinaldo Arenas "is a book above all about being free," said The New York Review of Books--sexually, politically, artistically. Arenas recounts a stunning odyssey from his poverty-stricken childhood in rural Cuba and his adolescence as a rebel fighting for Castro, through his suppression as a writer, imprisonment as a homosexual, his flight from Cuba via the Mariel boat lift, and his subsequent life and the events leading to his death in New York. In what The Miami Herald calls his "deathbed ode to eroticism," Arenas breaks through the code of secrecy and silence that protects the privileged in a state where homosexuality is a political crime. Recorded in simple, straightforward prose, this is the true story of the Kafkaesque life and world re-created in the author's acclaimed novels.

Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books; Reprint edition (October 1, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140157654

ISBN-13: 978-0140157659

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (76 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #189,616 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > LGBT > Gay #30 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > Caribbean & Latin American #230 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Gay & Lesbian

Customer Reviews

"Before Night Falls," the autobiography of Cuban writer Reinaldo Arenas, is an astonishing book. Arenas notes that he dictated part of the book into a tape recorder, and it was later transcribed by a friend. This format probably accounts for the book's intimate tone; I could imagine Arenas sitting in front of me and telling the whole story over coffee. The book has been translated into a forthright English by Dolores M. Koch."Before Night Falls" begins with Arenas' childhood in rural Cuba. It details his life as a writer, his many sexual exploits as a gay man, and his sufferings under the regime of Fidel Castro. It is amazing to read how Arenas had to struggle to exist as a writer in a police state; he tells how he was forced to hide manuscripts and how friends smuggled his writings

out of Cuba for publication in foreign countries. The book contains many shocking and painful episodes, such as his accounts of his own imprisonment and exile. But his life story also contains moments of humor and hope. Particularly interesting are Arenas' accounts of his friendships with other gay Cuban writers, such as Virgilio Pinera and Jose Lezama Lima. Overall, the tone of the book reflects Arenas' many moods: sensuous, angry, joyful, outraged, wry, melancholy, and--above all--defiant. His writing is rich in colorful personalities and fascinating anecdotes. An interesting companion volume to Arenas' autobiography would be the book "Eminent Maricones: Arenas, Lorca, Puig, and Me," by gay Colombian-born writer Jaime Manrique. Manrique knew Arenas personally, and "Eminent Maricones" contains an account of Arenas' last days as he worked to complete "Before Night Falls" while dying of AIDS-related complications.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Before Night Falls: A Memoir Disney's Gravity Falls Cinestory (Disney Gravity Falls) Pearls Falls Fast: A Pearls Before Swine Treasury Mary Higgins Clark; The Night Collection (Silent Night & All Through the Night) [Abridged, Audiobook] [Audio CD] Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts: Seven Questions to Ask Before -- and After -- You Marry Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts Workbook for Men Updated: Seven Questions to Ask Before---and After---You Marry Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts Workbook for Women Updated: Seven Questions to Ask Before---and After---You Marry The Change Before the Change: Everything You Need to Know to Stay Healthy in the Decade Before Menopause Left Behind Series Prequel Set (The Rising, Anarchist is Born Before they were Left Behind/ The Regime, Evil Advances Before they were Left Behind/ The Rapture, In the Twinkling of an Eye Countdown to the Earth's Last Days) Things You Should Know Before Modeling Nude: Before Taking off All Those Clothes for Big Money, You Need to Educate Yourself Nocturne Falls Coloring Book When Darkness Falls: The Obsidian Trilogy, Book 3 Gravity Falls: Journal 3 When Rain Falls Where Is Niagara Falls? Paracord Fusion Ties - Volume 1: Straps, Slip Knots, Falls, Bars, and Bundles When a Loved One Falls III: How to Be an Effective Patient Advocate Ember Falls (The Green Ember Series: Book 2) Behind the Scenes (Daylight Falls) Midnight Hour: A Shadow Falls Novel

[Dmca](#)