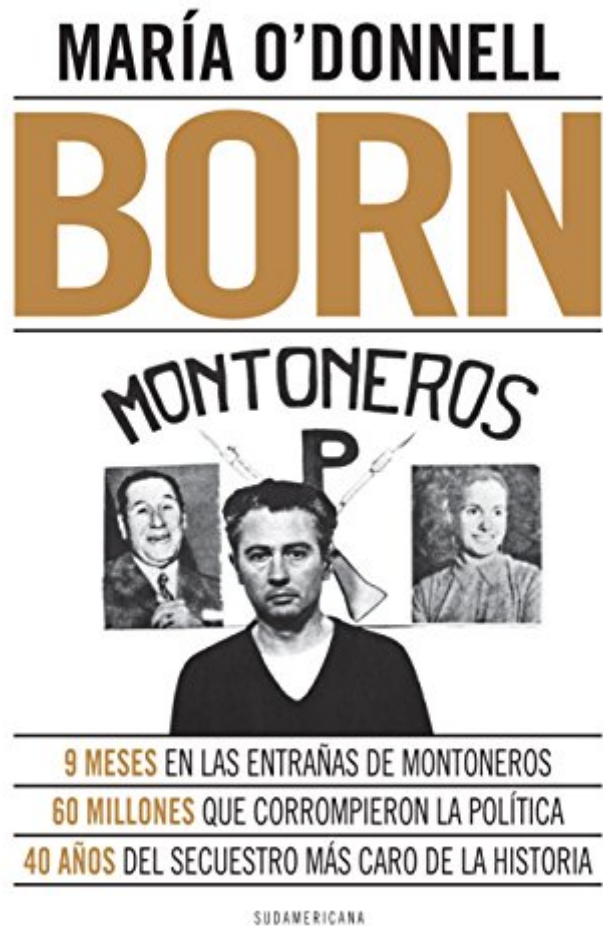


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BORN (Spanish Edition)



Synopsis

Tras meses de planificación y en un operativo que duró menos de dos minutos, el 19 de septiembre de 1974 la guerrilla peronista emboscó y secuestró a los herederos de Bunge y Born, el principal grupo económico de la Argentina. Hace cuarenta años los montoneros cobraron 60 millones de dólares, una cifra tan descomunal -un poco más de 260 millones de dólares a valores de hoy- que no ha sido superada en el mundo: sigue número 1 en la lista de los rescates más caros de la historia. Al testimonio exclusivo que Jorge Born brindó por primera vez para este libro, la investigación periodística de María O'Donnell suma la pista del dinero: desde que el Ejército y la Armada corrieron detrás del botín durante la dictadura hasta que Jorge recuperó algunos millones en una alianza oscura con uno de sus victimarios, Rodolfo Galimberti. Con un ritmo narrativo que atrapa, la autora reconstruye la "Operación Mellizas" y presenta aristas ignoradas: por qué el padre de los secuestrados se negaba a pagar, cómo Jorge negoció desde su cautiverio la vida de su hermano primero y luego la suya, qué papel jugaron la revolución cubana y el banquero David Graiver en el movimiento de los fondos. Y cómo esta historia podría relacionarse con el indulto que Carlos Menem otorgó a Mario Firmenich por -precisamente- el secuestro de los hermanos Born, un thriller de la realidad argentina, una historia atrapante que mezcla dinero y política, misterios y traiciones, y que llega hasta el presente para revelar hechos desconocidos.

Book Information

File Size: 1908 KB

Print Length: 248 pages

Publisher: Aguilar (May 1, 2015)

Publication Date: May 1, 2015

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: Spanish

ASIN: B00X8IVI98

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #494,890 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #9 in Books

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Customer Reviews

O'Donnell provides a fascinating look at a key inflexion point in Argentina's history that has been overshadowed by the vast literature on the 1970's "Dirty War" and its disastrous political and human consequences. The outlandish ransom paid for the release of the Born brothers (over US\$ 200 million in today's money) bankrolled much of the sophisticated lethality that the Montonero guerrillas established as their trademark and that was used to justify the 1976 military coup against an elected Peronist administration, and the heavy-handed repression that ensued. Just moving such enormous sums around became a problem the author describes in somewhat humorous detail. Laundering the funds involved sending a large part of it under diplomatic cover to Cuba, to be looked after by the island's regime. The Montonero leadership - a handful of twenty-somethings that the ransom allowed to lord over a thousand-plus paid armed insurgents, according to the book - entrusted most of the extant monies - get this - to a local banker, Mr. Gravier, who paid them a handsome interest, courtesy of the evil capitalist system. He died a most untimely death, however, leaving the funds behind the walls of secret accounts in Switzerland, to the chagrin of his guerilla clients. Just where the money went after that is a tale worthy of the Amber Room and has been the subject of much speculation. Members of the military junta and their minions produced untold suffering to find it, while frantic Montoneros saw their war finances dissolve. Although the money trail of the Montoneros' war has been discussed before, O'Donnell's book is the first to give voice to one of the kidnapping victims and his unique insights into the workings of the "Operaci3n Mellizas".

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