

A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK

"His course, as far as I can see, is to pull apart our most cherished myths and icons and see what they're really made of." —Barbara Kingsolver

Set in Miami in 1981, as the twentieth anniversary of the Bay of Pigs fiasco approaches, *Los Gusanos* is the explosive account of a group of Cuban exiles who plan to mark the anniversary by blowing up a power plant at the site of the failed invasion. The exiles include the righteous Marta de la Pena Cruz, who is driven by the desire to avenge her brother's death at the Bay of Pigs; Marta's uncle Felix, a former gunrunner for Castro; Padre Martin, a defrocked priest; and El Halcon, a shady character who was once in Batista's secret police. Well-armed but poorly prepared, fueled by the passion of extreme exile politics, they set off for Cuba, haunted by the memories of pre-Castro Cuba.

Filled with passion, violence, sex, and history—and taking its title from the derogatory term Castro used to describe those who fled after he came to power—*Los Gusanos* is a rare combination of literary fiction and visceral storytelling, in the vein of Elmore Leonard and Graham Greene. Through flashback and a memorable ensemble of characters, Sayles creates a vivid canvas of the last fifty years of Cuban life as seen through one extended family's life in Cuba and the United States.

"This fierce, profuse novel follows an exile family in Miami through a complex history of heroic and disastrous efforts at Cuban liberation."  
—*The New York Times*

John Sayles is the screenwriter and director of *Return of the Secaucus Seven*; *Baby, It's You*; *The Brother from Another Planet*; *Matewan*; and *Passion Fish*. His most recent film, *Silver City*, was just released to critical acclaim. Twice nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay, Sayles has also written two books of short stories, *Dillinger in Hollywood* and *Anarchist's Convention*.

Cover design by Tom McKeveny  
Cover image courtesy of Corbis, New York

Nation Books

An imprint of Avalon Publishing Group  
Distributed by Publishers Group West

LOS GUSANOS JOHN SAYLES



LOS  
GUSANOS

A NOVEL



"Impressive" —*Publishers Weekly*

JOHN SAYLES