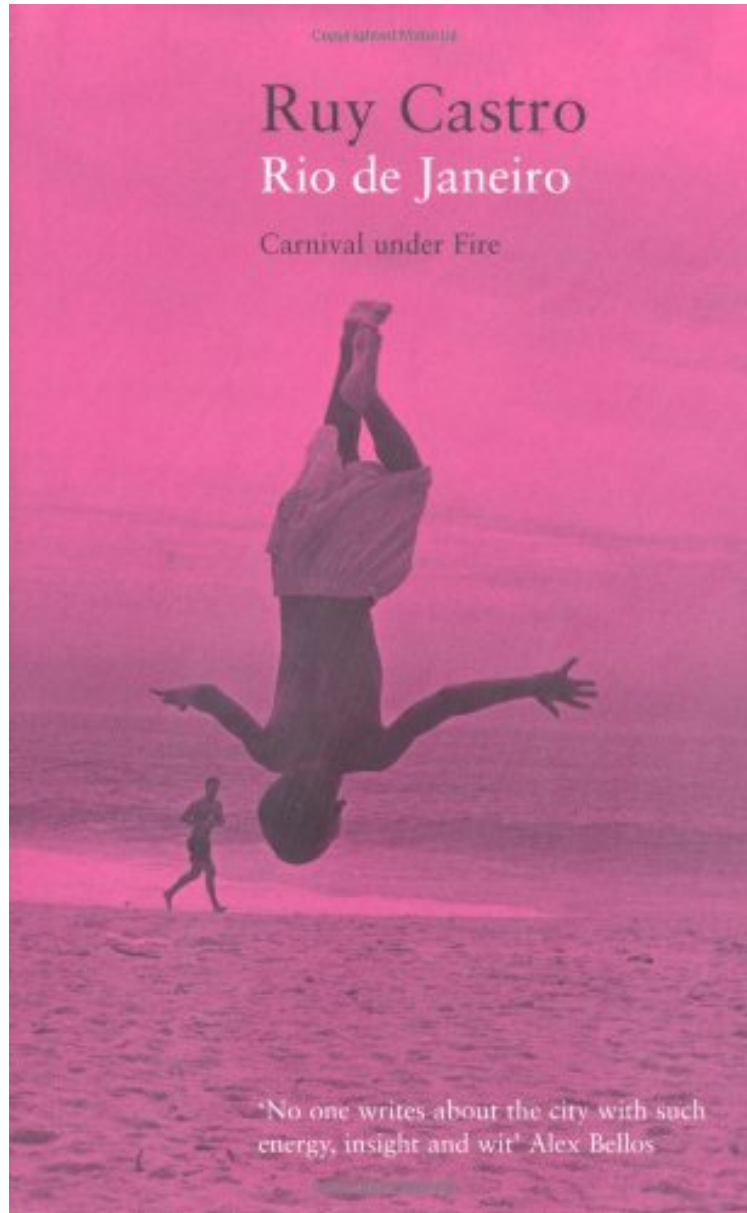


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Rio de Janeiro: Carnival Under Fire

Ruy Castro

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Ruy Castro : Rio de Janeiro: Carnival Under Fire before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rio de Janeiro: Carnival Under Fire:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Those who loved Castro's book about Bossa Nova By Bjrn Ola Bjrn toft Those who loved Castro's book about Bossa Nova, might find his book about Rio a bit thin. No photos, less

details and not many anecdotes from the last decade. Still "Carnival under Fire" offered interesting knowledge about Rio's fascinating history. And Ruy Castro knows how to write. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. excited for my trip to Rio! By Sarah Spar I love books like these over a typical guidebook when preparing for a trip to a new place. This book did not disappoint and I am now even more excited for my trip to Rio! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Fernando Jose Luna de Oliveir brilliant little book. too bad the author has become a fascist in his old age.

Occupying what is arguably the most breathtakingly beautiful site in the world, the people of Rio - the Cariocas - tell their stories: of cannibals charming European intellectuals; of elegant slaves and their shabby masters; of how a casual chat between two people drinking coffee on Avenida Rio Branco could affect world coffee markets; of an awesome beach life; of faveals, drugs, police, carnival, football and music. With his own Carioca good humour and spellbinding storytelling gifts, Ruy Castro brings the reader thrillingly close to the flames.

From Publishers Weekly The fifth book in Bloomsbury's the Writer and the City series is no dry travelogue, dutifully reciting the requisite tourist attractions and eating and drinking establishments. Castro (Bossa Nova), a notable Brazilian essayist, meanders through Rio the way a long-time resident might take a visitor through favorite neighborhoods, telling charming anecdotes as they occur to him: a French viscount's lunatic plan to knock down the Sugar Loaf mountain that rises in the midst of Guanabara Bay; the quixotic efforts to move Carnival to the cooler month of June; the playboy Porfirio Rubirosa's loss of his wife in the middle of a dance floor. Historical fables are woven in with an account of contemporary Brazil and a strong dose of the legendary carioca humor. Castro takes us from Amerigo Vespucci's arrival in Brazil in 1502 to the 17th- and 18th-century battles for control of Rio, recounting colonial-era maneuvering with an ear for irony. His musical chronicles follow the Belle poque and the first hit samba in the 1960s Carnival, "The Girl from Ipanema." He also recounts the drug wars and the growth of the hillside favela slums. He conveys Rio's jeito, or indefinable spirit, in a way that no traditional travel book could ever do. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Often resembling "heaven and hell at the same time," Rio de Janeiro has served as a haven for pirates, fugitives, and rebels, and until 1888 it was one of the world's largest slave markets. But despite its checkered past and troubled present, Rio refuses to take itself seriously. When Portuguese explorer Amerigo Vespucci first arrived in 1502, he discovered natives who "spent all their time singing and dancing in the sun, everybody naked, cheerfully fornicating in the woods"--that is, when they weren't eating each other. Today, Rio celebrates Carnival as its cultural centerpiece, and its inhabitants fill Copacabana's sex- and samba-fueled nightclubs, even while the thriving local drug trade routinely erupts in car chase and police shoot-outs. The beach, meanwhile, serves as a pseudo-town square: the places to meet friends, get gossip, and talk business. A worthy entry in Bloomsbury's Writer and the City series, this small, compact book teems with detail and offers an exciting take on Rio's topsy-turvy social history. Andy Boynton Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved 'Interweaving stories from his life with tales of Rio's colourful history, Castro paints a portrait of one of the most passionate cities on earth.' Express