



Ilpo Koskela: *The Devil's Whisper*

Finnish edition "Paholaisen kuiskaus", ISBN 978-952-99947-0-0, released in April 2009. Published by Valiosarjat Oy/ Arktinen Banaani, Finland.

Swedish edition "Djävulens viskning", ISBN 978-91-85951-25-3, released in May 2011. Published by Optimal Press, Sweden.

Algerian edition "Astewtew n ccitan", ISBN 978-9931-9310-0-3, released in October 2016. Published by Oxygen Publishing House, Algeria.

The book includes prefaces with several photographs about Cuban cigars and Caribbean political situation during spring 1961.

April 1961. The first man has just been sent into space; Adolf Eichmann is on trial in Jerusalem. In the third year of its revolution, Cuba is seething. Soviet troops stream into the country, black aeroplanes dirty the sky, the landing of the counter-revolutionaries is imminent.

Ricardo Garcia, a cigar maker whose brand "Tres Dagás" – "Three Daggers" has been left in the shadow of the renowned Montecristo cigars, has sent Aleks Revel and Charles Calthrop on a mission to find Jose Manuel Menendez, the world's best cigar maker, and bring him back from Cuba. Menendez was left behind in Cuba when the Montecristo factory and its owners fled the revolution to the Spanish Canary Islands the year before. Ricardo Garcia believes that his chance has come to develop a new cigar called "El Susurro del Diablo" – "The Devil's Whisper", and turn it into the best cigar make in the world.

Aleks and Charles venture their way to Havana Airport, where they launch their search for Menendez, which eventually takes them to the western parts of Cuba, to Pinar del Rio. But things do not go as smoothly as they had planned. Four days later, the searchers along with Jose Menendez, his daughter and a doctor who has joined the fugitives escape from a Cuban prison camp and make a break for Havana with Che Guevara's guardsmen on their tail. The next morning, they find themselves in the middle of the attack of the CIA-backed "black bombers". Calthrop manages to fly his badly bullet-torn DC-3 to the south, to Princeton on the Cayman Islands, where the story ends.

The Devil's Whisper takes Aleks Revel all the way to captivating Cuba, to the midst of its desperate attempt to break free from communist power. The story also recounts the history of cigars and discusses cigar etiquette. Other influences include early 1960s Cuban music, Caribbean cuisine, rum, politics, patriotism and relationships.

The main character, Aleks Revel, has previously featured in the comic books *The Irishman* (1991), *The Comic Cook Book* (1992) and *Aleks Revel* (1997).

International rights: prefaces, script and comics by Ilpo Koskela

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