

Title:
The Last of the Lucky /
You Can't Always Get What You Want

Author:
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Johannes Wahlström

Design:
1:2:3

Format / Pages:
297 x 417mm / 64
& 148 x 220mm / 120



In the spring of 2014, Klara Källström and Thobias Fältd travelled from the US to Cuba in the spirit of visiting the country before it would change. They had brought along analogue camera film that they feared was damaged by the x-rays of the security controls, so they went searching for new film.

In the streets of Havana, they accidentally ran into one of Fidel Castro's former private photographers. He took them to a camera shop, where despite the general lack of photographic equipment in the city, there were three rolls of film bearing the inscription "Lucky". The salesman handed over the rolls and said: "These are the last rolls of Cuba."

The expiry date on the unexposed "Lucky"-rolls was marked to 1994. They were sent to Cuba from the Soviet Union as part of the former Soviet-Cuba trade agreements that subsequently ended in the 1990s.

The Last of the Lucky / You Can't Always Get What You Want

Photographs by Klara Källström & Thobias Fältd

Text and research by Johannes Wahlström

Design by 1:2:3

64 pages with 32 color plates

& 120 pages with 101 Tweets

29.7 x 41.7 cm / 11.7 x 16.4 in

& 14.8 x 22 cm / 5.8 x 8.6 in

Full color UV offset

Unstapled & stapled

Soft covers and craft paper case with silk screen printing

Edition: 500

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B-B-B-Books

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the leadership of the United States came to believe that Cuban socialism would wither away on its own, and that all that was needed was a little push in the right direction. Therefore, the "Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act" was adopted by president William Clinton in March of 1996. This new approach to regime change provided the United States government with a legal and economic framework to bring about "democracy and market economy in Cuba".

In 2008 the US Department of State notified Congress that it would provide funds to the USAID for projects that "hasten the end of the Castro dictatorship". One of the most famous of these projects was the Twitter-like Cuban social network ZunZuneo which received its first funding in the summer of 2009 under Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. This and other similar projects continued to be funded during the rest of the tenure of Secretary Clinton with the proclaimed aim of "increasing the flow and access to accurate, independent, and uncensored information". The essence of these projects was to circumvent the Cuban state monopoly on information by supporting non-governmental organizations and creating social networks for communication between citizens.

In march of 2016, US president Obama visited Cuba and Havana would witness a free concert by the rock band The Rolling Stones. The concert, featuring the 1969 hit song "You Can't Always Get What You Want", was, some were convinced, the symbolic concert of change in the Americas.

Meanwhile, Bernie Sanders, a little known senator from the state of Vermont in the United States took the lead in opinion polls for the presidential nomination to the governing US Democratic Party, and at the same time the main candidate for the Republican Party, Jeb Bush seemed to be losing the nomination against the real-estate tycoon Donald Trump, known for promoting US financial protectionism and political isolationism.

With cruise liners once again mooring the Havana harbour, US artists gearing up for further concerts, and US airlines taking flight reservations to the Island, the American spring seemed to bring much anticipated change to the Western hemisphere.

In the spring of 2016, author turned couch photographer, Johannes Wahlström set out to document the change manifesting itself in messages sent over the US social network Twitter leading up to the US presidential elections later that year.

Notes:

The covers of the books are facsimiles of two news magazines; the Cuban daily newspaper Granma from 16th October 1967, one week after Che Guevara's death in Bolivia, when Alberto Korda's photograph of Guevara becomes known as the famous "Guerrillero Heroico" and the American magazine Newsweek from 8th November 2016 when Hillary Clinton is celebrated as "Madam President" of the United States of America. About 125,000 copies of the commemorative issue was published and distributed before the final results of the Presidential Election was confirmed.

The Last of the Lucky / You Can't Always Get What You Want was released at Self Publish Riga during Riga Photomonth 2017 and will be launched at Cosmos Arles Books during the opening week of Les Rencontres d'Arles 2017.