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Rachel Kushner
Author of Telex from Cuba

www.telexfromcuba.com





John Buntin Author of L.A. Noir: The Struggle for the Soul of America's Most Seductive City

www.johnbuntin.com



Co-host Roger Clark Partner, Clark, Goldberg & Madruga www.clarkgoldberg.com



Rachel Kushner's debut novel, Telex from Cuba, was a finalist for the National Book Award in 2008. An astonishingly wise, ambitious, and riveting novel set in the American community in Cuba during the years leading to Castro's revolution. Using family stories, extensive archival research, and all the tools of the novelist's imagination, she creates a portrait in many voices of a small society at a crucial moment in time: the American sugar cane and nickel-mining colony in the last years before Castro and the first moments of his revolution. As seen through the lives of the children and wives of American executives, and the parallel intrigues of a nightclub dancer with powerful friends and a former French collaborator--along with striking cameos by historical figures like the Castro brothers, Hemingway, and, yes, Colonel Sanders—Rachel's Cuba makes the raw materials of revolution, and its aftermath, come alive.

Rachel's fiction and essays have appeared in Fence, Bomb, The Believer, Grand Street, the New York Times, and Artforum. She lives with her husband and son in Los Angeles, where she is at work on a second novel.

John Buntin is a distinguished author and journalist for Governing Magazine. In his new book, L.A. Noir: The Struggle for the Soul of America's Most Seductive City, John describes Los Angeles as a city sold to the world as "the white spot of America," a land of sunshine and orange groves, wholesome values and Hollywood stars, protected by the world's most famous police force, the LAPD. But behind the image lies a hidden world of "pleasure girls" and crooked cops, ruthless tycoons and corrupt politicians, and Eastern gangsters on the make. Into this underworld came two men — one LA's most notorious gangster, the other its most famous police chief —?each prepared to battle the other for control of the city. These two men, Mickey Cohen and William H. Parker, would soon come head to head in a struggle to control the city a struggle that echoes unforgettably through the fiction of Raymond Chandler and movies like The Big Sleep, Chinatown, and L.A. Confidential. For more than three decades, from Prohibition through the Watts riots, their struggle convulsed the city, intersecting in the process with the agendas and ambitions of J. Edgar Hoover and Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Mike Wallace and Billy Graham, Lana Turner and Malcolm X and inspiring writers from Raymond Chandler to James Ellroy. Its outcome shaped American policing — for better and for worse — and helped to create the Los Angeles we know today.

Roger Clark is the founding member and managing partner of Clark, Goldberg & Madruga

www.clarkgoldberg.com. In his more than 25 years practicing law, Roger has earned a national reputation as a successful trial attorney representing insurers, cable television providers, and small and large businesses in a broad range of business litigation matters. "My philosophy has always been that the attorneys in this law firm must be prepared not just to 'litigate' a case, but to try it before a judge or jury, while at the same time keeping the client's goals and objectives squarely within our sights." Roger is rated "AV" by Martindale-Hubbell, which is the highest rating that can be bestowed upon an attorney.

### Hosted by Steve Murphy.



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# **EXECUTIVE PRODUCER & HOST:** STEVE MURPHY

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