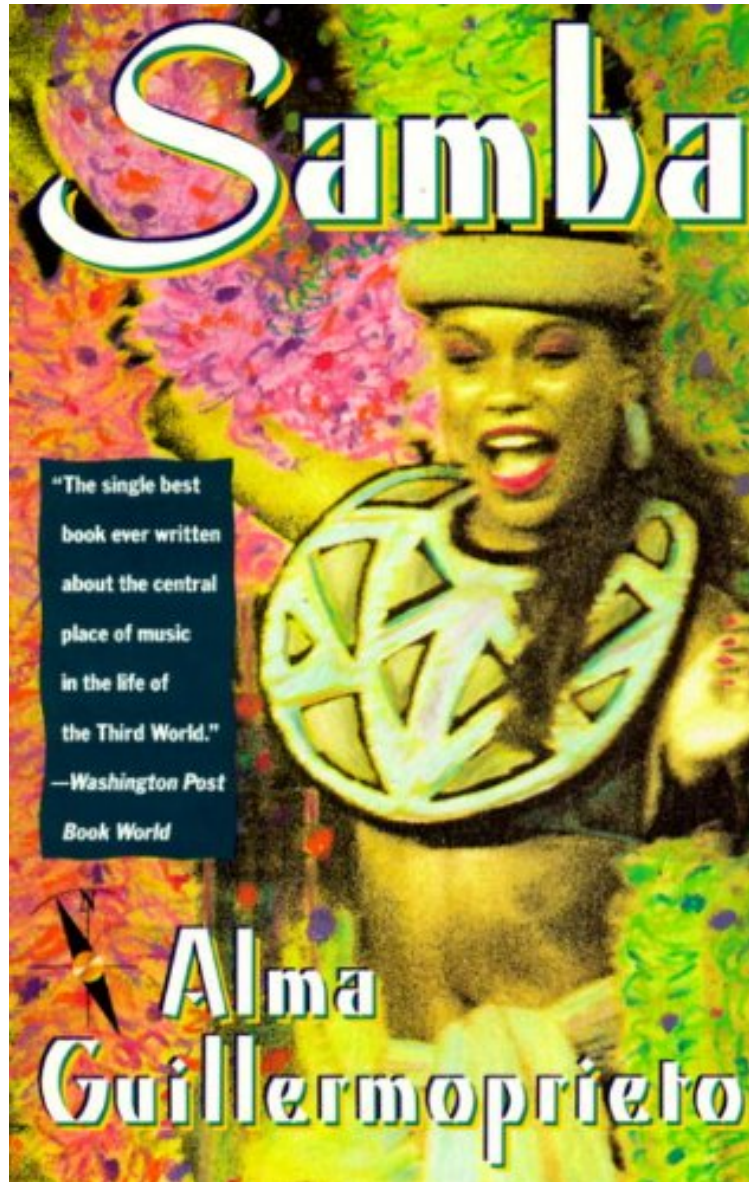


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## Samba

*Alma Guillermoprieto*

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**Alma Guillermoprieto : Samba** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Samba:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Superb book by a superb writer By MaryW It took me all these years to review this book, but it recently came to mind (I anticipate traveling to stay with a branch of my family tree I've never met before) and suddenly Samba is on my must-re-read list. It's fabulous even now I get chills thinking about it,

and I haven't read it for years. But now that I've brought it to mind, you can bet it's on my re-read list. The most amazing thing is Guillermoprieto's kicker what writers call it when you've got just the perfect anecdote or quote or image or whatever it is that leaves readers slack-jawed. Because by the end she was already writing at such a fever pitch that I couldn't see how she could possibly out-do herself. But she did. Meanwhile, no need for me to repeat the (positive) insights of other reviewers they're right-on. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book. By Angel S. I love reading about Brazil and Samba and I really enjoyed this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By EmmaGreat.

For one year, Alma Guillermoprieto lived in Manguiera, a village near Rio de Janeiro, to learn the ritual of samba--the sensuous song and dance marked by a rapturous beat--and to take part in Rio's renowned carnivale parade.

From Publishers Weekly Rio de Janeiro's carnival, seen in the foreign film *Black Orpheus*, is the site of an annual samba competition. "Guillermoprieto vividly presents the individual stories of principal participants, analyzes the feelings they express in their music and dance, describes the contributions of the various samba schools and offers his interpretation of black Brazilian history and culture," said PW. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Every year the favela (poor sections on the hills of the city) of Rio organize teams of Samba dancers to compete in the yearly carnival. The author follows the preparations from the perspective of the champion Manguiera team, 5000 strong, and finds a serious community project to which all contribute despite their poverty and the high cost of costumes. The Manguiera team honors its African roots in its themes. Tempers and emotions escalate, leading to inevitable disasters which last for months, until finally all collapse into a black and white mass of unfettered sensualism at carnival. This delightful book gives a glimpse into a culture of poverty and its art form, about which too little has been written in English. Photographs would have added to the fun of reading; nevertheless, this will be popular with general readers. -Louise Leonard, Univ. of Florida Lib., Gainesville Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. "May well be the single best book ever written about the central place of music in the life of the Third World." --Washington Post Book World