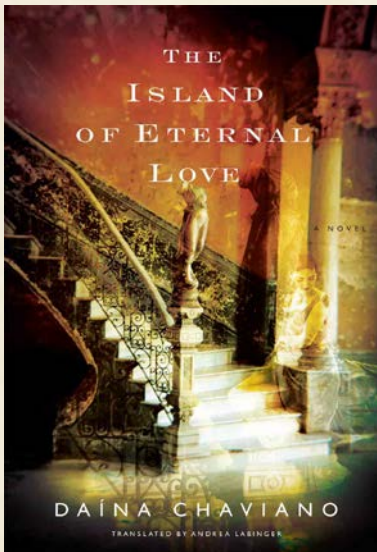


The Island Of Eternal Love: **An Absolute Delight** by Mary Margaret Benson

Taken from *Library Journal*. June 28th, 2008.



Cecilia, a lonely Cuban American journalist, encounters the elderly Amalia in a bar in Miami's Little Havana. They meet over and over, as Amalia recounts family histories, a melding of the lives of women in three Cuban families, one from Spain, one from Africa, and one from China.

Meanwhile, Cecilia investigates a mysterious house that seems to appear and disappear around Miami; she becomes progressively more interested in magic and the gothic as she searches out supposed witnesses of the phantom house. The novel's two threads are peopled with actual Cuban musicians, living and dead.

While this is not a fantasy as such, various magical events work to bring the threads together in a rich, satisfying whole. Cuban American writer Chaviano has lived in the United States for nearly 20 years. Her books have been translated into many languages, but this is the first to be translated into English. It's high time, too: this work is an absolute delight, and Chaviano's English-speaking readers will look forward to more translations. A gold medal winner at the 2007 Florida Book Awards; highly recommended for public libraries. --**Mary Margaret Benson, Linfield College Library, McMinnville, Oregon.**

