



# The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love: A Novel

By Oscar Hijuelos

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## The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love: A Novel By Oscar Hijuelos

From FSG Classics, a special twenty-fifth anniversary edition of Oscar Hijuelos's beloved Pulitzer Prize winning novel

It's 1949 and two young Cuban musicians make their way from Havana to the grand stage of New York City. It is the era of mambo, and the Castillo brothers, workers by day, become stars of the dance halls by night, where their orchestra plays the lush, sensuous, pulsing music that earns them the title of the Mambo Kings. This is their moment of youth, exuberance, love, and freedom a golden time that decades later is remembered with nostalgia and deep affection.

Hijuelos's marvelous portrait of the Castillo brothers, their families, their fellow musicians and lovers, their triumphs and tragedies, re-creates the sights and sounds of an era in music and an unsung moment in American life.

Exuberantly celebrated from the moment it was published in 1989, "The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love" won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1990 (making Hijuelos the first Hispanic recipient of the award). It was adapted for a major motion picture in 1992 and remains a perennial bestseller. The story's themes of cultural fusion and identity are as relevant today as they were twenty-five years ago, proving Hijuelos's novel to be a genuine and timeless classic."

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## **The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love: A Novel By Oscar Hijuelos Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

Inspired by their heroes Xavier Cugat and Desi Arnaz, brothers Cesar and Nestor Castillo come to New York City from Cuba in 1949 with designs on becoming mambo stars. Eventually they do--performing with Arnaz on "I Love Lucy" in 1955 and recording 78s with their own band, the Mambo Kings. In his second novel, Hijuelos traces the lives of the flashy, guitar-strumming Cesar and the timid, lovelorn Nestor as they cruise the East Coast club circuit in a flamingo-pink bus. Enriching the story are the brothers' friends and family members--all driven by their own private dreams. **The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love** won a Pulitzer Prize in 1990.

#### From Publishers Weekly

The Mambo Kings are two brothers, Cesar and Nestor Castillo, Cuban-born musicians who immigrate to New York City in 1949. They form a band and enjoy modest success, their popularity peaking in 1956 with a guest appearance on the *I Love Lucy* show. PW lauded this Pulitzer Prize-winning novel: "Hijuelos's pure storytelling skills commission every incident with a life and breath of its own."

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#### Review

"By turns street-smart and lyrical, impassioned and reflective, *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love* is a rich and provocative book--a moving portrait of a man, his family, a community and a time." *Michiko Kakutani, The New York Times*

"One lush, tipsy, all-night mambo of a novel about Cuban musicians in strange places like New York City." *People*

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

##### Silvia Washington:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book may be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the e-book untitled *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love: A Novel* can be fine book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

##### Ronald Dotson:

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the time or they will get great deal of stress from both daily life and work. So , once we ask do people have spare time, we will say

absolutely of course. People is human not only a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer will unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, often the book you have read is definitely *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love: A Novel*.

**Santiago Bronson:**

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book specially book entitled *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love: A Novel* your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a e-book then become one web form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get previous to. The *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love: A Novel* giving you an additional experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful data for your better life in this particular era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

**Luis Gazaway:**

A number of people said that they feel bored stiff when they reading a reserve. They are directly felt the idea when they get a half elements of the book. You can choose the particular book *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love: A Novel* to make your current reading is interesting. Your current skill of reading expertise is developing when you including reading. Try to choose easy book to make you enjoy to study it and mingle the impression about book and studying especially. It is to be initially opinion for you to like to open up a book and go through it. Beside that the publication *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love: A Novel* can to be your brand-new friend when you're really feel alone and confuse with what must you're doing of that time.

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