

A Historical Fiction Book Proposal
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(with Harvest Sun Press as the packager)

Santa Anna: In the General's Charge

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Book Synopsis

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Santa Anna: In the General's Charge*

A piece of historical fiction in the strictest, most enlightening, and entertaining sense of the genre, "Santa Anna: In the General's Charge" offers a sprawling perspective with a yet tightly woven narrative of all the treacheries, military and political stratagems, and blatant abuse of power inherent in the bizarre and grandiose life of Mexico's most infamous general and president, Antonio López de Santa Anna. The reader follows the arch of Santa Anna's odd and seemingly fated orbit around the vast and troubled realm of Mexican history: during the time of struggle for independence from Spain and up until his career's wavering peak when not long after the Alamo Santa Anna essentially lost that sizeable fraction of Mexico north of the Rio Grande due to an ill-timed siesta by the San Jacinto River. From the impetuous and aggressive antics during his youth to his time as a mischievous and already corrupt cadet at the military academy, young Antonio's true nature is apparent even before that first in a long string of stunning betrayals when he turns against the royal Spanish army and chooses to so convincingly fight for Mexican independence. In truth, Santa Anna only ever fights for one cause: Santa Anna.

Along with a detailed account of Santa Anna's political and military chessboard maneuverings and his dubious rise to the highest elected office in the country, two main fictional characters—in the form of Francisco Moya, a young merchant, and Padre Marcelino Noriega—become integral to the story's narrative, plot, and overall emotional weight. From the outset in the year 1876 when Santa Anna has died and been buried with all the strange lackluster and poorly attended ceremony of "a pauper's funeral," an elderly Moya and the octogenarian village priest, Noriega, sit on the back porch of the church by the tall, swaying palm trees outside. The two old friends work their way through the past with the aid of Moya's wine and cigars, as they reminisce and muse over the many twists and turns that their own lives took while following in the path of their mutual and most notorious acquaintance, the general. At once inextricably bound to Santa Anna's sweeping actions and the consequences thereof, the younger counterparts of Moya and Noriega seem destined by circumstance to work in the service of the general in their own unique ways: Moya offers his uncanny and innate abilities to acquire the most desired liquors and imported Napoleonic statues and busts, and the padre quickly discovers his mediator and information-gathering talents as the general's primary liaison with the all-powerful and equally corrupt institution of the Catholic Church. However, by the story's cliff-hanger conclusion (which brings the reader up to the midpoint of Santa Anna's ceaselessly amazing and epic life), it is evident that Santa Anna and the hurricane of events surrounding him have ultimately brought nothing but tragedy and loss for young Francisco Moya and much of Mexico.

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Marketing and Sales Potential:

Firstly, the prospects of being successful with both an English and a Spanish edition gives “Santa Anna” an immediate edge. With its timely and thought-provoking ironies and retrospective about the U.S. and Mexico border, the novel is poised to attract attention from politically concerned and curious English readers, as well as the Spanish-language readership. Together, the compelling genre of historical fiction and the infamous figure of Antonio López de Santa Anna present an additionally attractive book product with a special marketing bonus: especially for Mexicans and even many Mexican-Americans, there is simply no other figure in all of Mexican history who inspires such embittered sentiments as this unprecedented eleven-time president and sometime dictator. Yet while there exists little debate over the man’s character and lack of honor, the intrigue is virtually limitless with regards to his fascinating life and deeds. Encounters with menacing road bandits, cunning political deceits and corruption, and equally swashbuckling and at times horrific depictions of the numerous military jaunts and confrontations also offer more than enough entertainment throughout. In addition, “Santa Anna” provides what will be for many readers some very illuminating insights of Mexico’s socioeconomic conditions and the origins of the country’s first border problem: ironically, the Anglo immigrants from los Estados Unidos. Moreover, the novel is only the first part of a planned two-volume chronicle of Santa Anna’s life. If readers want resolution to the cliffhanger ending and desire to learn more about how the strangely Homeric story unfolds, then they will need to buy the second book.

“Santa Anna” thus clearly achieves a unique balance that is ideal for a major publisher’s marketing campaign: it has both the highly viable, specific target audience (the strong and fast-increasing Spanish-language readership), as well as mass-market appeal for the trade in both English and Spanish markets. In all respects, “Santa Anna” is a perfectly timed product (with the current debate on borders and immigration, as well as anticipating the upcoming bicentennial of Mexican independence), while the previously stated marketplace and target audience positioning also points towards the benefit of having a long and profitable shelf life. Finally, with the proper marketing campaign and distribution, the scope and relevance of this gripping two-part narrative about Mexico’s most turbulent time and most legendary general should create enormous potential for a wide array of lucrative subsidiary rights. Considering those profitable yields and the product’s exceptional positioning to succeed with both English and Spanish readers in a variety of publishing categories (genre fiction, history, biography, and military), the costs to publish and market “Santa Anna” amount to a relatively small investment for all the limitless potential it contains.

Book Specifications:

Two volumes, each measuring approximately 5 ½ x 8 inches: the first installment being approximately 410 pages of type, and the second to be of a similar page count. For distribution to the adult trade in the U.S.

Chapter Summaries

1. *El Presidente is Dead*—1876: The story opens with the brief and unceremonious burial with “every semblance of a pauper’s funeral” for the largely unmourned general, one-time national hero, and off-and-on-again president for well over a decade. The other main (fictitious) characters of Father Noriega and Francisco Moya are also introduced, and the padre delivers the news of the recent passing of Santa Anna. The two old friends begin their epic and lively recollection and recapitulation about the life of Antonio López de Santa Anna: how their own lives intertwined with the general’s wild escapades and his bizarre contributions to the chapters of history during the tumultuous and formative years of New Spain’s demise and Mexico’s birth. Francisco begins to recount the time he visited with the general just previous to Santa Anna’s notorious battle at the Alamo. The third person narration continues the scene where Francisco’s dialogue leaves off. A short passage concludes with details of some of the circumstances surrounding the battle of the Alamo, which will be returned to again towards the end of the book.

2. *Young Antonio*—1806-1812: In his youth, Antonio López de Santa Anna displays some early tendencies of aggression with other children. Later, as a cadet at the military academy, he shows inclinations towards mischief in all of its free-spirited as well as darker manifestations: from gambling, to theft, and seducing young, impressionable girls. Soon insurgencies begin to spread throughout Mexico, largely due to the influence of a parish priest, Padre Hidalgo, who calls for independence from Spain on what later becomes known as the official date of Mexican independence: September 16, 1810. Under the command of General Arredondo in the royal cavalry, Santa Anna becomes an enthusiastic participant in snuffing out the early and precursory rebellions in Texas, along with campaigns against indigenous tribes in the regions. During the campaigns, Santa Anna has one particularly long and dismal night of gambling and comes up short with some heavy losses. That same evening he sneaks into the tent of the company treasurer and forges drafts to raise the money to pay his gambling debts but is soon found out and faces court martial. Miraculously, he is “able to narrowly avoid complete disgrace.”

3. *The Blessed Roosters*—The first of several scenes set far across the border in that illustrious office in the Executive Mansion in Washington, D.C. From James Madison’s brief appearance here in this chapter and on through the years to the presidency of Andrew Jackson, several executive-branch administrations in the United States government will continue to keep a close watch on events as they unfold in the bordering nation which will very soon be known as Mexico. 1814-1815: Meanwhile, not far from the city of Veracruz, Father Noriega has his first encounter in what will become a longstanding acquaintance and oddly advisory and spiritual relationship with Santa Anna. After introducing himself, Captain Santa Anna reveals his cargo in the back of his wagon and makes his request to the padre: Santa Anna politely asks Father Noriega to bestow his providential blessing upon the captain’s fighting rooster. Afterwards, the rooster does not disappoint. Next to bedding down village girls, cockfighting becomes a primary source of entertainment for Santa Anna and at least a secondary source of income. It will certainly not be the last time Noriega’s blessing is requested.

4. A Change of Philosophy—The first discussion—this one between old Francisco Moya and Father Noriega as they continue to reminisce and enjoy their wine on the back porch of Noriega's parish in the year 1876—of Mexico's long-standing caste system. The conversation transitions into how during the year 1821 Augustine Iturbide declared the Plan de Iguala and joined in among the calls for Mexican independence from the Spanish Crown. Also Santa Anna's former superior officer in the royal cavalry, General Agustín Iturbide thus commits treason against New Spain and the Spanish crown. In 1821, Santa Anna seeks the blessing of Padre Noriega once more, though not for cockfighting. Santa Anna leads the royalists against the independence revolutionaries in the mountains at Orizaba. The young captain achieves a great victory for the royalists and rises to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. However, there is little time for Santa Anna to appreciate his promotion, as another large revolutionary force led by a Colonel Herrera quickly surrounds Santa Anna's position. Left with few options, Santa Anna commits a stunning betrayal against the royalists and joins the revolutionaries. As time transpires, the treachery proves to be a staple of his dual careers in the military and in politics. Santa Anna aides Iturbide and the revolutionaries in several swift victories in Veracruz before the Spanish viceroy, Lieutenant General Juan O'Donoju of Spain, eventually concedes in September of 1821. The viceroy acknowledges Mexican independence with the Treaty of Cordoba, which is nonetheless later repudiated by the Spanish Crown.

5. The Monroe Doctrine—In Washington, D.C., President James Monroe and John Quincy Adams discuss reports (albeit time-lapsed) of the recent activities in New Spain. Santa Anna's name is mentioned, as is his infamous turn against the royalists. The first of many present-day ironies is also touched upon with regards to the border situation and how New Spain has been permitting immigration of Americans into Texas with virtually open borders.

6. The Padre and the General—In all the splendid array of a now uniformed brigadier general, Santa Anna revisits Padre Noriega in 1822 and convinces the priest to come live with him and serve as minister at his spacious, new estate near Xalapa. The general dangles the prospects of a new parish to soon be built and subsequently managed by Noriega—a promise that turns out to be very long in coming. With a strong insistence and some additional clout, Santa Anna colludes with the bishop, and the padre's relocation is solidified.

7. The Fruits of Victory—Accompanied by aides wielding both swords and guns in proud display, Santa Anna strides into the office of the head of tariff collections in Veracruz—one of many examples to soon follow of how Santa Anna abuses his power and appropriates government funds and residential properties under the auspices of his rank as a general and whatever new administrative and political titles are granted him.

8. The Merchant and the General—Continuing to make arrangements for his lavish new estate, Santa Anna goes to the home of Francisco Moya Sr. to follow up on an old promise to employ his father's aguadero as his own personal aguadero. The occasion is also young Francisco Moya's (Francisco Moya Jr.) first meeting and introduction to the general.

9. Manga de Clavo—The padre begins with an account of Emperor Iturbide’s half-hearted attempt to recall the obviously corrupt Santa Anna to Mexico City, a recall which inevitably fails and even further backfires when Santa Anna works his charms on Iturbide’s sister. Santa Anna returns to his luxurious new hacienda, Manga de Clavo. The general bestows an impressive gift upon young Francisco Moya Jr. And after being reunited with his latest conquest—his fifteen-year-old concubine, María Chávez—Santa Anna has the first of many advisory breakfast meetings with Padre Noriega. During the meeting, Santa Anna gives the priest his first “mission.” The unenthused padre is to be the general’s spy among the ever-powerful church hierarchy on a journey to Puebla and Mexico City, meanwhile serving as the reluctant babysitter for young Francisco Moya Jr.

10. Serving the Lord in Puebla—Noriega and young Francisco Moya begin their long and often difficult journey through the Sierra Madre Oriental mountain range. When they finally arrive in Puebla, Noriega begins his assignment and quickly learns how to be an observant and reserved extractor of information when it comes to his superiors such as the questionable Bishop Martínez. Upon revisiting the Puebla cathedral for the first time in years, the padre also cannot help but discern the sumptuous and opulent lifestyles of the church hierarchy. During their stay at the surprisingly extravagant monastery, Father Sánchez tries to assist Padre Noriega in breaking his sacred vows of celibacy—much to the incredulity of the humble village cura. Later that same evening, the padre also witnesses the suspicious sounds of a strangely “reverberant, monastic night” coming from the neighboring room of a Brother Domínguez. The following day, Brother Domínguez introduces the alluring Sister Marta to Noriega at breakfast. On Noriega’s last night in Puebla, Sister Marta unexpectedly knocks on the padre’s door and pushes him to the brink of temptation.

11. The Archbishop and the Poinsettias—Noriega and Francisco arrive in Mexico City and observe the capital in all of its large scale and glory, including “the many houses with their hanging gardens and nearby churches and public buildings that featured proud domes and towers.” The padre again surveys the duplicitously excessive lifestyles of the church and Archbishop de Fonte y Hernández Miravete in particular. After another awkward meeting and one more “redundant gift” donated by Noriega on the behalf of the general, the archbishop invites the padre to an important social function at the archbishop’s palace, where the padre makes the acquaintance of an envoy from los Estados Unidos, a Mr. Poinsett, who unwittingly and carelessly provides the padre with some useful information that will aid General Santa Anna. During the intriguing exchange between the padre and Poinsett, it is revealed that the new emperor, Agustín Iturbide, is quickly losing his seat of power along with every cent in the national treasury.

12. The Emperor—Upon his return, Noriega reports to Santa Anna. Through their conversation (and the supporting narrative in 1876 between Noriega and Francisco), other important developments and key players are introduced to the increasingly complicated and treacherous plotting going on among the leading Mexican and Spanish generals and Emperor Iturbide. During the time that Noriega and little Francisco were away, Santa Anna was simultaneously manipulating a Mexican general and a Spanish general. Santa

Anna coaxed a Spanish brigadier general, named Francisco Lemaur, to attempt to recapture the port of Veracruz from his fortress out in the harbor while also trying to trick one General José Antonio Echávarri, whom Santa Anna hoped would wind up getting captured and killed by Spanish troops—all so Santa Anna could claim to Iturbide that he scored a great victory over the rest of the Spanish at Veracruz. Echávarri survives, though, and reports the betrayal to the emperor. Joined by a large contingent of armed troops, the emperor follows up with a visit to Santa Anna's wealthy and clearly illegitimately obtained estate and orders the general to return to the capital for "reassignment." Santa Anna gives the pretense of an obedient servant and complies with the command, requesting just a few days to make preparatory arrangements for the trip. Little does the emperor know that only a short while previous General Guadalupe Victoria was also at the hacienda to call upon Santa Anna to request help with mounting an insurgency against Iturbide.

13. The World According to Cervantes—The great port city of Veracruz welcomes Noriega as he joins Santa Anna on what is largely a hastily planned trip soon after Emperor Iturbide's recall order. A city proliferated with the great black Zopilotes swooping down from overhead and buildings and homes made from the harbor's reserves of coral, Veracruz is the "gateway into New Spain for all goods coming from the home country or from anywhere else in Europe." At the Church of San Francisco, Father Noriega meets and consults his old friend, Padre Cervantes, a highly educated though politically un-ambitious priest. In light of Santa Anna's dilemma, the two padres discuss some of the fundamental difficulties facing newly independent Mexico—one such problem being the overwhelming power of the church.

14. The Plan of Casa Mata—December, 1822: Word of Santa Anna's surprising and public announcement for a new republic of Mexico reaches Noriega and Cervantes during their meeting. The priests venture out to the nearby buzzing and crowded plaza soon after the declaration, which ultimately amounts to a vote of no confidence and declaration against Emperor Iturbide. Santa Anna implies to the padre that he will be out of reach for the near foreseeable future, since the general is essentially about to go to war with the new empire. Santa Anna also does not want the padre's political integrity to be questioned by his close association with a now rebel general.

15. On the Road to Xalapa—Early spring, 1823: Santa Anna experiences his share of "setbacks" during his march on Iturbide's forces at Xalapa. On the way he manages to enlist a much-lauded group of soldiers known as Iturbide's "Imperial Grenadiers," who easily defect to Santa Anna. However, during the engagement at Xalapa, the Imperial Grenadiers prove to be nothing more than cowards and flee as soon as shots are fired. Discouraged, Santa Anna retreats and even considers escaping to the United States. General Victoria joins Santa Anna's retreating forces, though, and convinces the disheartened Santa Anna to return to Veracruz to reconstitute his army and await the additional support of the country's other generals who are likely to join in the fight very soon.

16. Defending Veracruz—Santa Anna takes up residence in a large palace near the harbor back at Veracruz where command can be established in the comfortable house so he can plan the defense of the great, walled city. Since the owner is away, Santa Anna and his officers move into the home uninvited. In Mexico City, Iturbide gives the order to General Echávarri and three thousand men to march on the rebel general and “show no mercy.” By the harbor while feeding some seagulls, Noriega and Cervantes continue their discussion about Mexico and its potentially dim socioeconomic future. Finally, news reaches Santa Anna about the coming of Echávarri’s imminent forces. While the general finds time to entertain himself with the daughter of a local shopkeeper, a new teenaged but “beautiful, nubile girl named Santina Solís,” he also arranges another precarious assignment for Padre Noriega. The padre is to go intercept and meet with Santa Anna’s enemy, General Echávarri.

17. The Reluctant Diplomat—Along with a couple of bottles of wine, Noriega delivers Santa Anna’s message to General Echávarri. The padre tries to convince Echávarri of Santa Anna’s intentions: namely that Santa Anna wants to avoid bloodshed and that it is only a matter of time before additional generals and their forces from around the country join in the movement of a republic. Though evasive, Echávarri’s commitment to Iturbide is apparently soft.

18. Profits—Noriega and Cervantes have another one of their insightful debates and discussions on Mexico’s future—this time introducing the likelihood of a conflict to one day arise between Mexico and the U.S., due to Mexico’s proximity to the powerful northern nation and the socioeconomic difficulties facing Mexico. In 1876, old Noriega and Francisco Moya resume their own quirky and humorous conversation and summarize the surprisingly quick fall of Emperor Iturbide, the slow transition that later will bring Guadalupe Victoria to power in 1824, and how Santa Anna—after his own relative struggle and victory—strangely appears to want nothing other than to return home to his pastime of cockfighting.

19. Cockfighting—Back at Manga de Clavo, young Francisco talks with the head rooster handler, Rafael Delgado. Delgado decides to introduce Moya to the gory and disturbing “sport” of cockfighting. They walk to the large barn and inside approach the general’s giant sand pit where “training” fights are held. By the time he finishes watching several short but brutal bouts that yield plenty of carcasses and meat for the evening meal, little Francisco grows “significantly less interested in the sport.” That summer, Francisco turns fourteen; and with the good fortune of some extra funds, he begins to trade goods less as a hobby and more as a career. Later he undergoes another kind of initiation: this one at the hands of the general’s teenage mistress, María Chávez, who has grown distraught and a little reckless upon hearing the news that Santa Anna is bringing home a bride.

20. Yucatán—May, 1824: The “triumvirate” and many national politicians and powerful generals in Mexico are very uncomfortable with Santa Anna’s popularity: so to nudge the general out of the way, they send him to the Yucatán peninsula to aide against some persistent Spanish sympathizers and to mediate disputes between the citizens of Campeche and Mérida. Complete with 16th century ramparts surrounding the city and

mired, uninviting pits with drawbridges, Campeche's gloomy atmosphere is one of a city constantly prepared for war. After a brief stay, Santa Anna feels that to even begin to solve the problems facing the two cities he next needs to go to the great limestone city of Mérida, where he also assigns Noriega to meet with the bishop in order to gain insight to assess the situation between the rival cities. Meanwhile, as part of his request for permission to accompany the general's rooster handler, Delgado, to the nearby port of Progreso, young Francisco makes a successful purchase of Cuban cigars to later sell to Santa Anna and his officers. On their way to Mérida to meet up with the general, however, Francisco and Delgado have a dangerous encounter with two anxious bandits. It will not be the last time that such a confrontation threatens Moya's life and pursuit of happiness.

21. Cuba—Santa Anna discusses his rather rushed plans with Noriega about the possibility of invading Cuba. Early spring of 1825: in Washington, D.C., John Quincy Adams receives intelligence reports of the makings of such an invasion. He dictates to Secretary of State, Henry Clay, to arrange a meeting with Pablo Obregon, the Mexican minister in Washington, D.C. Due to Cuba's proximity to the mainland, the U.S. will make it clear that it will not permit such an invasion. President Guadalupe Victoria easily concedes to the pressure.

22. More Profits—Welcomed by his young wife, Doña Inés, the general and his entourage return to Manga de Clavo. Having "come late in life" to his parents, Francisco returns home after the year-long trip and sees that his mother and father are thinner and are beginning to show signs of age. A three-day fiesta with plenty of pulque, wines, and other liquors is held to celebrate the general's return. It also does not take long for young Moya to sell out of all of his goods once he is back. He is quickly becoming an expert merchant. But the padre wisely sees that with all of Francisco's early profits and success, the boy may need some moral or at least ethical guidance. The padre thus uses the only tool he knows for such instruction: the Bible. Padre Noriega explains that the social relevance of the select stories and messages is undeniable for non-believers and believers alike, since the narratives compellingly make use of "universal truths."

23. For the Love of Money—Upon Francisco's visit to Veracruz, Noriega briefly meets again with Padre Cervantes. During the meeting, Cervantes mentions how most of the bishops in Mexico have lately moved to New Orleans out of their deep concern about government policy towards the church. When Francisco brings back his carefully selected purchases from the short trip to the port city, he finds he has a dependable customer in the general. With these proud additional profits in mind, though, Francisco's mentor, Padre Noriega, again finds an opportunity to discuss the pitfalls of what is deemed "the love of money," a brief discussion of greed that informs young Moya but more importantly has applications to the novel's central and title character and the corrupt leaders of the clergy.

24. The Self-Defense Rebellion—1828: A complex arrangement of political betrayal, upstart and collapsed rebellion, and a hotly contested presidential election ends up putting Santa Anna in a difficult position. In the end, newly elected President Manuel Gómez-Pedraza and his supporters are rumored to be quickly bringing false charges against Santa

Anna for having been against the conservatives in the “Plan of Montano” and the national election. Although “what’s best for the country” may be debatable, Santa Anna decides to fight a battle that is certainly in his own best interests. When Santa Anna’s intentions are clear and he successfully takes the fortress Perote and converts nearly every soldier there to his side, President Victoria and President-Elect Gómez-Pedraza agree to take action against the rebel general. A “military chess match” ensues between Santa Anna and General Rincon, the general assigned to bring Santa Anna down.

25. On the Run—Though support gradually builds in Santa Anna’s favor and in opposition to Gómez-Pedraza, the rebel general is still forced to retreat to the foothills of the western Sierras and the city of Oaxaca. There Santa Anna devises a plan to capture General Calderon, the new general in charge of the rival army after Rincon is demoted. With soldiers dressed as priests sent to kidnap Calderon during a mass service at a nearby convent, Santa Anna’s plan fails miserably.

26. Surrounded—Santa Anna is surrounded at Oaxaca. General Calderon tightens the siege lines around the rebel general’s position and cuts off all of the escape routes. In Mexico City, Father Noriega revisits the shop owner Juan Trujillo, but the close encounter with an angry mob in the shopping district indicates the instability coursing through the whole country as Santa Anna’s much publicized predicament at Oaxaca helps stir the unrest.

27. Miracle—At literally the last hour before meeting certain death, Santa Anna receives news that Calderon’s massive forces are retreating. Santa Anna cannot believe his good fortune. He goes to the top of the bell tower of the cathedral in Oaxaca’s main plaza and sees a sight that he can only attribute as “God’s will.” President Victoria has caved to the political pressure and riots in the capital; and President-Elect Gómez-Pedraza flees into exile after threats made on his life, thus leaving the obvious opening for General Guerrero to take the presidency that he had earlier lost to Gómez-Pedraza. (The executive branch of the U.S. government undergoes their own transition of power, as President Adams makes way for the tobacco-chewing, slave-owning, and always provocative Andrew Jackson.) With a thousand loyal troops now permanently at his side to protect him, Santa Anna soon returns home to Xalapa. Nothing short of a being a victorious hero in his mind, the general resumes his old ways and calls for “voluntary loans” from the entire town.

28. The Spanish are Coming—1829: In Washington, D.C., Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren discuss reports that a Spanish expedition led by General Barradas and Admiral Laborde is preparing to sail for an invasion of Mexico in the summer. The news does not take long to also reach Santa Anna at his hacienda. Without waiting for approval from the government, the general takes quick and decisive action. He begins planning his response to the invasion and leaves to Veracruz to gather more troops. Santa Anna calculates the two most likely landing sites along the coast and brings only soldiers who are native to the area. He thus ensures the immunity of his forces to the region’s deadly “black vomit,” which promises to be very unforgiving to the unsuspecting Spanish invasion.

29. Seizing the Moment—Summer, 1829: After commandeering several ships from their owners in Veracruz, Santa Anna sails the coast uninterrupted by the Spanish navy—thanks to Admiral Laborde’s poor decision to return immediately to Cuba after deploying the Spanish invasion’s ground forces. When Santa Anna lands safely at Tuxpan, he makes way to Tampico and settles in with his troops just across the Panuco River. All the while, Spanish soldiers are already succumbing to the yellow fever and dying in the hospitals in Tampico. General Barradas divides his Spanish troops after arriving in Tampico and takes the vast majority of his healthy soldiers to the north. He is halted twenty miles out of Tampico just before he can enter the mainland of Mexico; there he discovers that Mexican General Manuel Mier y Teran’s forces are blocking the route inland. Santa Anna soon decides to cross the river and engage the Spanish. However, the Spanish put up a strong resistance. During a battle that rages all night and well into the morning, even Santa Anna encounters heavy fighting with three rifle balls ripping through his shirt, though once again the general is unharmed. A truce is quickly arranged in a luxuriant English consulate office the next day; but before the meeting is even over and the Mexicans can retreat back across the river, General Barradas returns from the north. Following the gentleman’s code of a truce, though, Barradas allows Santa Anna and his men to retreat back across the river—thus losing his only chance to capture and defeat the Mexican general.

Though in an enviable position and soon backed by Mier y Teran, who comes further down the river to the general’s aid, Santa Anna grows impatient with the Spanish. Essentially, Santa Anna only needs to wait to emerge victorious. But his frustrated communications with the Spanish general and the rejected demands for unconditional surrender spur Santa Anna’s impetuous decision to again cross the river and attack the Spanish in their well-protected fort. Though many Mexicans die due to Santa Anna’s overeager resolve, the losses on the Spanish side are significant enough to call for another discussion of surrender. The surrender is not unconditional, but it still proves satisfying enough for Santa Anna. The Spaniards are defeated. In large part the victory comes thanks to the leadership of General Mier y Teran, but Mier y Teran has no interest in personally or politically benefiting from the great Mexican victory. Santa Anna is a different story; he will make certain that he becomes nothing less than a national hero.

30. A National Hero—Mexico City receives news of Santa Anna’s victory, and President Guerrero is of course obligated to congratulate the general as the country’s hero. More importantly, in the eyes of the people, Santa Anna becomes the most popular man in all of Mexico. When he returns to Veracruz, thousands of people gather to pay tribute to him in the harbor, and city leaders bestow upon him the lasting title of “Victor of Tampico.” The general thus slowly begins to poise himself for a grab of power. He once more sends Noriega to Mexico City to gather information and communicate with the still powerful church hierarchy. On the way, this time accompanied by the armed protection of Santa Anna’s soldiers, Noriega and Francisco make another short stop at the cathedral and the strange monastery in Puebla.

31. Slavery—President Guerrero continues to make strides of liberalism in the government, both in outlawing the death penalty and abolishing the institution of

slavery—much to the equal discomfort of conservatives like scheming Vice President Bustamante and the archbishop. Another individual who bristles at the very notion of abolition is U.S. President Andrew Jackson. In Washington, D.C., Jackson nearly keels over when he receives word of Mexico's new changes. Historical ironies abound, Jackson rants about his concerns with Mexico, Texas, and the interrelated issue of slavery, as he goes on to profess the importance of “slav'rie” to his “Democratick Partie.”

32. Bustamante Comes Calling—Vice President Bustamante arranges a meeting with Santa Anna's “emissary,” Father Noriega, at one of the evening social events at the archbishop's palace. Desirous to confirm or deny potential future allies, Bustamante wants to learn more about this new national hero, the “Victor of Tampico.” He speaks with Noriega and informs the padre on his plans to soon visit the general at the hacienda. True to his word, Bustamante makes a calculated trip to Manga de Clavo the next month. Bustamante's aide, Colonel Ortiz, also brings along an unexpected guest: María Chávez. María's reappearance stirs some old memories and tensions for both Francisco and the general's wife (who had caught the servant girl in bed with Santa Anna shortly before María fled the hacienda). A fair amount of double talk ensues between Santa Anna and Bustamante. Yet they agree to issue a joint communication in support of President Guerrero in order to deny any intentions of another rumored rebellion. How sincere either man is about the statement of support for the increasingly controversial president is uncertain at best.

33. Yielding to Temptation—While the general entertains his company at night with the sounds of loudly strummed guitars, bombastic brass music, and animated yelps from hired mariachi musicians, Francisco returns from a daytrip to Xalapa. Back in his room, young Moya has a surprise visitor waiting for him and lurking in shadows: María Chávez. Unfortunately, the next morning Francisco must contend with the apparent void in his bed, his Catholic guilt, and a brief but agonizing encounter with María's fiancé.

34. The Plan of Xalapa—Despite the recent proclamation of presidential and constitutional support, Bustamante proceeds to announce his own rebellion anyway. President Guerrero makes a very risky decision and leaves the capital to personally combat and put down Bustamante's rebellion.

35. Trust—1830-1831: Guerrero becomes a fugitive and Bustamante is President. Santa Anna resigns all of his political positions, professing a desire to concentrate on his family, the hacienda, and his roosters. Over time now, Francisco Moya has become a very wealthy and successful merchant. However, he grows restless with the local trading of the profitable yet predictable goods. He thus commits to a sailing venture with a Captain Picaluga to explore other more adventurous areas of trade. After several months at sea, the questionable character of Captain Picaluga one day informs Moya of some special cargo soon arriving. The cargo turns out to be none other than fugitive President Vicente Guerrero. Unfortunately, Francisco does not realize the devious motives of Captain Picaluga towards the former president until it is too late. Captain Picaluga turns President Guerrero over to Captain Miguel Gonzalez, who is sent by the Bustamante administration to arrest the former President of Mexico. Unable now to do anything to

save the fugitive president, Francisco is disgusted with the treacherous Captain Picaluga. Moya's only choice is to flee the ship once they get to shore and cut off all connections with the Italian ship captain.

36. Smitten—On his way home, Francisco stops in Mexico City. He meets briefly with Juan Trujillo, the shop owner who had his store destroyed in the riots. Trujillo's business seems to have recuperated successfully, and the shop owner informs Moya that the padre is also in town—presumably on one of his missions for Santa Anna. Moya and Noriega soon reunite after roughly a year and meet at the archbishop's palace and catch up on news and life. As they prepare for the archbishop's evening social event, Noriega mentions that he has someone special to introduce to Francisco. That night Francisco meets Senator Valentin Gómez-Farias and the senator's visiting friend from Texas, Señor Elizario Sandoval.

Though both men make an impression, Francisco soon discovers the true guest of importance that Noriega had hinted at: Señor Sandoval's beautiful young daughter, Rebecca Sandoval. Moya takes in her full appearance: how "her long, raven hair was drawn back and revealed a tenderly sculpted and dulcet visage: a small, flawless nose and a smooth, oval face with the hue of a lightly bronzed olive, sincerely demure." As the chapter title states, Francisco is "smitten" from the start. Moreover, it appears that Rebecca Sandoval is equally so taken with Francisco. However, circumstances are not in the favor of the love-struck pair. The Sandovals must return to San Antonio the next day; and so Francisco—feeling any chance at further acquainting himself with young Rebecca Sandoval has now been lost—solemnly returns to Xalapa with Father Noriega.

37. Restlessness—Towards the end of their long trip back to the hacienda, Francisco announces to the padre his intentions of another journey. Moya plans an extended visit to Father Cervantes in Veracruz so he can continue his English lessons with the priest and hopefully soon travel to the U.S., and possibly even to San Antonio. In other news, the stunning execution by firing squad of former president Guerrero only further confirms Moya's initial suspicions about the deteriorating conditions in Mexico. It is more apparent than ever that in order to preserve his wealth and safely pursue other business ventures, Francisco will have to leave the country. After young Moya leaves for Veracruz, the general goes through another bout of fiestas, cockfighting, and liquor at the hacienda. Santa Anna begins to grow restless. With some encouragement from other officers, Santa Anna thus returns to his favorite activity: he begins to plan a revolt against now President Bustamante.

38. Los Estados Unidos—1832: Having continued to practice and study English with Padre Cervantes in Veracruz, Francisco is ready to leave for his long-anticipated trip to the U.S. New York and Philadelphia, the two major cities of commerce at the time, are Moya's primary destinations. As Francisco makes his start in the U.S., President Andrew Jackson continues to stir things up in Washington, D.C. He remains adamant (and adamantly anti-Semitic) about his controversial strategy that will eventually lead to the termination of Nicholas Biddle's Bank of the United States so that "pet banks" can be set up instead. In a discussion with his new Secretary of State, Edward Livingston, Jackson also reviews the current situation in Mexico. In order to oust Bustamante, Santa Anna and

his rebels are calling for the return of the very same man that Santa Anna had removed by force four years ago, Gómez-Pedraza (who, as mentioned earlier in the MS, currently resides in exile not far from Philadelphia). As Jackson surmises: ““This makes no sense at all!””

Through the quick contacts that Francisco makes in New York City with his persistent inquiries, he is soon advised to go to the true center of investment and trade in the United States: Philadelphia. With his ingenuity and helpful recommendations from New York, the young merchant secures a meeting with a very reputable and conservative investment firm, which ends up safeguarding and further increasing the bulk of Moya’s wealth—the *bulk* being somewhat surprising to the firm, as the office clerks help haul up the stairs the heavy trunk of the Mexican’s startling earnings. In addition, through the firm’s well-connected partner, a serendipitous meeting is arranged for their young, new client to later meet with none other than former President of Mexico and now-resident of Pennsylvania, Gómez-Pedraza.

39. News from Home—In the lobby of his hotel, Francisco meets with Gómez-Pedraza. The two are mutually appreciative of the chance to talk once more in their native language, as they discuss at some length the current events in Mexico: namely how Santa Anna and the rebels are calling for Gómez-Pedraza’s return so he can serve out the short remainder of his presidential term. Though Gómez-Pedraza has no love for Santa Anna, he appears ready to go back home. And as he mentions to young Moya, he suspects tensions will inevitably escalate between the U.S. and Mexico. He adds, almost as a warning: ““I don’t want to be living on this side when the fighting begins.””

40. A Glimpse of the Future—August through November of 1832: On his return to New York City, Francisco again witnesses the sheer volume of impressive building structures in the densely crowded and still growing city. He travels to Harlem and sees the construction project of the New York and Harlem Railroad in its final stages and later reads in the newspapers about the newly unveiled invention of Joseph Henry’s telegraph, which prompts Moya to perhaps consider an investment in copper (reportedly required for the telegraph’s communication wires) some time in the near future. After staying long enough to procure some additional goods to later trade, the young merchant prepares for the long sail back to the port of New Orleans, where he plans to briefly reunite with Father Cervantes.

When Francisco eventually lands in New Orleans, he soon locates Padre Cervantes, who has lately been working as an aide to the bishop of the New Orleans diocese. Moya talks with Cervantes about his exciting trip and the update on Santa Anna’s latest forays. At last Francisco mentions the Sandoval girl, Rebecca, who has been on his mind ever since he made her brief acquaintance almost two years ago. Cervantes playfully suggests how young Moya might travel to reach the remote town of San Antonio de Béxar, in Texas. The notion of a trip to track down this relative but enchanting stranger turns out to amount to more than a lark for Francisco.

41. Texas—The young merchant books a trip to the small port city of El Copano in the Aransas bay on the southern coast of Texas. The tedious and often solitary trip over sea and land takes Francisco several hundreds of miles west of New Orleans and into a

strange, new part of Mexico that he has never before seen. Moya gradually makes his way to the town of Goliad with its scattered anaqua trees and the Spanish-built fort of La Bahía. Roughly a three-days ride from Goliad, Francisco at last makes it to the surprisingly undeveloped San Antonio de Béxar, supposedly the most significant settlement in Texas at the time. On a very inauspicious and menacing night, as “the wind blew swirling by the rickety rows of shanties and shops . . . [and] sawdust bars and foul-smelling alleys,” Moya makes sure to quickly find some safe lodgings. He goes to sleep after eating only “a stale loaf of bread” and hearing “a smattering of not-too-distant gun shots.”

After his breakfast the next morning, Francisco goes to one of the missions by the river to inquire about the Sandoval family. He enters the nearby San Fernando parish and meets with Father De La Garza. Francisco explains that he met Señor Sandoval in Mexico City and how he has ““business”” to discuss with the area’s relatively prominent citizen. Knowing the Sandoval family well, Father De La Garza smiles and suspects the additional possibility that young Moya may be more interested in Sandoval’s daughter, also a frequent parishioner at the San Fernando mission. De La Garza agrees to take Francisco to the Sandoval ranch several miles outside of town after he returns from some errands. As fate or luck would have it, though, Francisco takes a nap in a front pew in the church and is awakened to a rather felicitous (and humorous) re-acquaintance with Rebecca Sandoval. With Moya’s polite, honest ways and good-natured manners, and considering the warmth and welcoming spirit of the entire Sandoval family—including even Rebecca’s older brother—Francisco is quickly accepted into the generous Sandoval family at their spacious hacienda; more importantly, he is welcomed into Rebecca’s embrace.

42. The Liberal Reformer—1833: Once Gómez-Pedraza finishes the few quick remaining months of his token presidential term, Santa Anna is predictably elected president. Not so expected, though, is Santa Anna’s at-once startling (yet for him not uncharacteristic) move to enlist his “latest ally and next potential political fall man,” Gómez-Farias as acting president. The general claims his still-recovering health is the reason, but it is obvious to some more perceptive observers that Santa Anna is using Gómez-Farias as a ““shield”” during what will be a period of radical reform and reduction in church and military powers—reform that will eventually fail for the unfortunate Gómez-Farias.

In Texas, Francisco continues to make his way as a respectable citizen in the San Antonio area: while continuing with his merchant activities, beginning to tutor children in his bilingual language class at the nearby mission, and courting the lovely Rebecca Sandoval. By the chapter’s conclusion, Moya and Rebecca have a small but joyful wedding ceremony.

43. Red and María—Debate slowly renews in Texas about the question of independence. Francisco is confronted with both sides of the issue: “On one side of the spectrum resided the traditional loyalists—those loyal to the rule of their leaders in the capital and respectful of the Mexican constitution as it was written. Such an individual was Father De La Garza. On the other side, men like Juan Seguin and José Antonio Navarro had grown increasingly despondent and detached from the distant and ineffective government in Mexico City. After witnessing constant turnovers in leadership in the capital and the

issuance of a seemingly endless stream of mindless decrees and changes in the governing laws of Texas and other far away states, the detractors had grown tired of such oblivious and uninformed domination. . . . Although they openly suggested that Texas would be better off as an independent nation, they also hoped that Mexico would reform itself.”

Francisco buys a house so he can begin his new life with Rebecca. The home in Goliad (a two-to-three day ride from San Antonio) requires a significant amount of repair and remodeling, though. He is fortunate to make the acquaintance of Red and María, a couple that he hires to help him with the extensive work on the home. Red is an immigrant from Tennessee and María is a Mexican citizen. The couple ends up becoming very good friends with Francisco and Rebecca.

With the radical (but necessary) changes implemented by Acting President Gómez-Farias, opposition is already building around the country: “Forces in support of the military and the church are already conspiring . . . to induce the failure of these reforms,” Gómez-Farias warns a non-committal Santa Anna.

As Francisco makes one of his typical long trips back to San Antonio from the port of El Copano, stopping overnight in Goliad at his still-unfinished home, the chapter is brought to a suspenseful finish: between Goliad and San Antonio, Moya is held up by a pair of thieves. Thankfully en route and traveling back to Goliad, Red helps foil the highway robbery and saves Moya’s life in this episode, the novel’s second bandit ambush that also foreshadows the ultimately tragic ending soon to come.

44. Storm Clouds—1833-1834: Not long after the dangerous encounter on the road, both Francisco and Red discover that they are going to be parents. The announcement of future parenthood comes at a perfect time for the Moyas, since their house in Goliad is now recently completed. However, things are not going so well for Santa Anna: “Rebellions soon broke out in the western states in response to the rapid and sweeping reforms of Gómez-Farias. . . . Just as more than a couple of his ruling predecessors had done, President Santa Anna changed into his highly decorated military uniform and left the capital as General Santa Anna.” When he returns after two attempts at putting down the rebellions—the second of which succeeds—the general finds that an epidemic of Cholera is ravaging the country. By the end of the year, Santa Anna decides it is time for a vacation, and he informs a shocked Gómez-Farias of his plans for a very inopportune six-month leave of absence. Finally, in the spring of the new year, the Moyas have a new baby boy, as do their good friends, Red and María.

45. The Dictator—1835: Santa Anna forces his past political ally, Gómez-Farias, into exile. The general then proceeds to abolish the national constitution and personally select and appoint his own Congress, as he then returns power and privileges back to the church and the military. The reversals and obvious treacheries will not go unaccounted for: rebellion again breaks out in Zacatecas. In addition, with the unlawful and publicized arrest and imprisonment of a prominent Texan, Stephen Austin, Texas is on the brink of rebellion as well. Francisco sees the unrest escalating in the area—especially the potential for danger with their home in Goliad being so close to the presidio. Though it is a painful decision with having only so recently settled into their new home and life, Moya moves his small family back to the Sandoval estate: he is only concerned with the safety of his wife and newborn child.

46. Foreigners—Santa Anna prevails with relative ease over the uprising in Zacatecas. He then turns his eye north to the rumored rebellion beginning to form near San Antonio. After well over a year being held captive, Stephen Austin is released; he wastes little time in gathering support in Texas to combat the forces that Santa Anna is already preparing to dispatch to Goliad and San Antonio. When the forces led by Santa Anna's brother-in-law, General Cos, arrive in Texas, Francisco tries to convince Red to temporarily move his family from the Goliad area to the relative security of the Sandoval ranch. Red concedes to allow his wife and child to go to the Sandoval home, but he insists on staying to watch over and protect his home and garden. Only a few weeks later, the reinforcements left at the Goliad presidio by General Cos are defeated by the Texas militia. War is inevitable.

47. Reunited—1836: Francisco briefly meets with Santa Anna when the general and his army arrive in San Antonio. Somehow Francisco is able to avoid the general's very pointed questions and remains neutral before leaving the general to his task of eliminating the rebels at the Alamo a few days later. Against Francisco's urging, Red leaves the safely located Sandoval home after a short visit with his wife and son. He returns to his cabin in Goliad at perhaps the worst time possible. Santa Anna kills all of the rebels at the Alamo after a drawn-out siege, and other Mexican forces prepare to retake the presidio at Goliad. As a precaution to prevent the Mexican soldiers from acquiring any useful supplies, the Texas militia burn every home in the area—including Red's cabin—before they retreat.

48. Atrocities—Three loathsome militia deserters from Sam Houston's command begin their cautious and looped route towards San Antonio. The men plan to combat the Mexicans in other, more underhand ways: namely by looting. With no home and little food, Red travels the road in desperation the next morning. It is not long before two Mexican scouts from General Urrea's camp on the San Antonio River finally spot and capture him. Owing Red a life debt, Francisco begins to grow concerned when his friend does not return as soon as promised. With the Texas militia in full retreat, Francisco realizes the situation is now relatively safe for Mexicans in the area. He goes to Goliad to find Red; instead he discovers only the horrors of war and eventually learns that Red was mistakenly taken for a Texas militiaman, captured, and then executed with the hundreds of other Texas soldiers in the Goliad area. Francisco sees the aftermath firsthand: "Colonel Portilla's soldiers had stacked the hundreds of dead bodies on top of a bed of tinder and branches for kindling just minutes before Francisco arrived at the scene of the massacre. Smoke started to fill the air as he approached the clearing, and Francisco detected a black, pungent odor the likes of which he never imagined he would witness in his lifetime. Human flesh was burning, the stench lingering heavily in the morning fog."

When Francisco sadly makes his way back to the Sandoval ranch, he is confronted with still more sorrow and tragedy: he comes upon the scene of the earlier detailed massacre of María, Lorenzo, Rebecca, and his own son—all four of whom are wiped out by the three militia deserters. The only survivor is Red and María's son, Francis (or Frankie).

49. San Jacinto—April, 1836: Sam Houston launches his surprise attack on Santa Anna's camp during the time of the siesta. The battle of San Jacinto lasts less than twenty minutes. Houston suffers a wound to his ankle during the engagement when a rifle ball strikes him. Waking up in his tent wearing only his underwear, the Mexican general surveys the catastrophe, takes toll of the odds, and panics and flees the camp. He is shortly thereafter captured.

50. Epilogue—After a period of mourning, Francisco realizes he will only be able to begin the long healing process if he can return home and leave Texas, the place where he has experienced so much unspeakable loss and hurt. He leaves the Sandoval hacienda in his wagon. Accompanying him is Frankie, the young Anglo son of Moya's now deceased friends.

Old Francisco and old Padre Noriega have one final conversation to close the novel. The brief exchange makes it clear that the story of Santa Anna still has another large portion yet to be told: “Padre, one day when the names of presidents and saints are on street signs everywhere about the country, I wouldn't be surprised if you could search all over Mexico and never find his name. Still I suppose he may have deserved that. First he lost Mexico. Next time, he sold it.”

About the author:

A long-time resident of the Southwest, James Spence formerly studied at New Mexico State University under both Dr. Ray Sadler and Dr. Charles Harris, the noted historians and co-authors of several books on Mexican History. Equally formative and meaningful for the author: a familiarity with Hispanic culture and having lived in a Spanish-speaking household for a time at the age of eighteen. He has also been involved with public speaking for twenty-eight years in radio and television broadcasting with hundreds of NCAA sportscasts for football, basketball, and baseball events. The author continues to work and write in Las Cruces, New Mexico, where he lives with his wife and dog-sits his daughter's pet poodle.

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About the manuscripts:

A complete and edited version of the manuscript is available in English upon request. The first fifty pages of the English manuscript are also available in a .PDF file at <http://www.harvestsunpress.com/>. A Spanish translation of the English manuscript is also available upon request, though the translation is still being finalized.