

# Review of Texas Books

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## Editors' Choice: *Notes on Blood Meridian* John Sepich

**Notes on a Cabala in Western Guise**  
Review by Lloyd M. Daigrepoint

Readers may question a review of a reprint of a book-length study of a single novel published nearly a quarter century ago—well before Cormac McCarthy's spate of rather well-praised titles—*All the Pretty Horses* and the other books in the border trilogy, *No Country for Old Men*, and *The Road*, for which McCarthy received the Pulitzer Prize. The timing of this republication of Sepich's *Notes* may serve to remind us of Harold Bloom's conviction that *Blood Meridian*; or, *The Evening Redness in the West* (1985) is a work of fiction like no other, perhaps the best novel by a living American author, a fascinating and horrifying work of relentless violence and lyrical beauty (which Bloom was compelled to finish after twice putting away), a work that long before *All the Pretty Horses* placed the author within the literary heritage of Melville and Faulkner (see *How to Read and Why* 254-63).

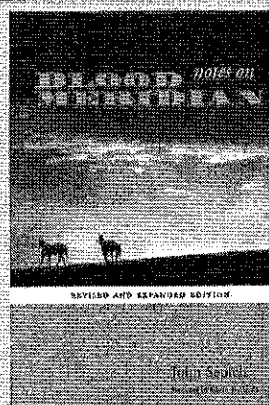
Set in Mexico and the American Southwest during the filibustering era immediately following the Mexican War, *Blood Meridian* retells the story of the notorious John Joel Glanton, native of San Antonio and former army scout who made a devil's pact with Governor Angel Trias of Chihuahua. Glanton and his retinue of forty-or-so former rangers, dragoons, Delaware Indians, and outlaws were hired to rid Northern Mexico of Apache Indians at the enormous rate of fifty dollars per scalp. As the Apache population diminished, the gang murdered other natives (whose scalps or "receipts" could not be distinguished from those of Apaches) and eventually turned on the Mexican frontier population, the very people they were hired to protect. With Trias eventually apprised of these atrocities, Glanton and his followers attempted to escape westward but were themselves massacred by Yuma Indians at a ferry crossing of the Colorado River, several members of the gang escaping into California.

Fascinating in itself, the story receives compelling development in McCarthy's able hands. The violence is not only relentless and graphically portrayed but unpredictably varied and grotesque. Roughly half the gang members

are named and given distinct characters. Historical figures such as Trias, the immigrant arms dealer Albert Speyer, the Mimbrenño Apache chieftain Mangas Colorado (Red Sleeve), the Yuma chiefs (Pelo, Pascual, and Pablo), the statuesque army "bride" Sarah Borginnis, and others lend an air of fascination and authenticity to an already exciting narrative. And as in all of McCarthy's novels locale is scrupulously rendered. Readers are led to feel that a special truth—"the multitude of things lost" in mere historical accounting—has somehow been garnered through the author's intensely imaginative preoccupation with detail. For Sepich *Blood Meridian* is a "magical, revelatory text," an "urtext, a cabala hidden in the guise of this western novel" (xiv). Despite its regional setting and the relatively minor historical significance of its story, it bears for Sepich a tantalizing import primordial and universal.

In essence Sepich's "notes" reveal McCarthy's overwhelming commitment to authenticity—having covered the terrain (sometimes on horseback) where the gang's murderous exploits took place, consulting hundreds of published sources, and weighting even fictional aspects of his story with factual or historical context. Thus the reader of *Notes* will discover that the highly sensational story of Judge Holden's rescue of the gang from pursuing Indians—manufacturing gunpowder from bat guano, volcanic brimstone, woodash, and urine—derives from several sources, among them Cortés's *Letters from Mexico*. The grotesque depiction of Comanche warriors attacking Captain White's filibustering expedition—their menacing cries and the merciless aspect of their trophy scalps and war paint complemented by objects liberated from their victims such as parasols, wedding veils, and conquistadors' armor—is based upon historical sources that provide views of Native Americans not easily harmonized with those of Cooper or Parkman and not easily understood in any sense. In a way, this honest confrontation of the puzzling, the grotesque, and the horrific in American history is the message or, rather, the challenge that Sepich takes from the novel. Moreover, Sepich does not seem to regard his work as conclusive, inviting readers to "Poke around" for answers

*Continued on page three*



*John Sepich is an artist living a few miles west of road signs in rural central Illinois, doing different things to make ends meet.*

### Featured Publisher

The University of Texas Press publishes books and journals, both for a scholarly audience and for the people of Texas, issuing works in a wide range of fields. The Press' scholarly books present the results of original research conducted all across the United States and Latin America and in centers of learning throughout the world. As part of its mission to serve the people of Texas, the Press also produces books of general interest for a wider audience, covering, in particular, the history, culture, arts, and natural history of the state. The University of Texas Press has published more than two thousand books over five decades.

*Continued from page two*  
that may place the *cabala* of McCarthy's text in some more auspicious light or focus. Readers will indeed learn much from Sepich's analysis and scholarship, for example, his deft uncovering of the symbolism of the Tarot cards introduced in one scene or the significance of staging the novel's conclusion at Fort Griffin in the late 1870s. But perhaps there is a greater attraction in the way the information and analyses offered foster the reader's own pondering.

*Notes on Blood Meridian* began as a thesis written in completion of the Master of Arts degree at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. After graduation, Sepich continued to develop his study of the novel, publishing excerpts in *Southern Quarterly*, *Southern Literary Journal*, and *Mississippi Quarterly*. Encouraged following a reading at a literary conference devoted to McCarthy, Sepich found a publisher for his book in the Bellarmine College Press (Louisville). Only 700 copies were printed, and as interest in McCarthy developed *Notes on Blood Meridian* became a much sought-after volume. It became a rare book, one that McCarthy enthusiasts boasted about having had the insight or foresight to purchase when available. When this reviewer requested that his college library obtain a copy, only one could be found on the internet—its price \$650. No library in Texas would lend the book; interlibrary loan eventually borrowed the copy in the University of Kentucky Library. Now, thanks to University of Texas Press this valuable source can belong to every college library—as well it should—and can be read by every student of McCarthy. For readers of *Blood Meridian*—whether students or enthusiasts—*Notes on Blood Meridian* is an indispensable resource.

SEPICH, JOHN. *NOTES ON BLOOD MERIDIAN*. 1993. REV. ED. SOUTHWESTERN WRITERS COLLECTION SERIES. AUSTIN: UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PRESS, 2008. 216 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. MAP. LC 2008023297. \$21.95 PAPER. ISBN 13: 978-0-292-71821-0. \$45.00 CLOTH. ISBN 13: 978-0-292-71820-3.

## Dark Card Rebecca Foust

A Mother's Journey  
Review by Mary Baswell

*Dark Card* is a mother's journey into autism and the primal instinct that mothers carry, intense emotion that ebbs and flows, an eternal lapping joy and fear. Rebecca Foust shares with those that cannot relate the curse of an illness and the rawness of parental love.

She begins with her labor that "heaves up in great waves / like the moon-crazed tide." She takes us to the first seconds after birth, just after "that skip-beat! of nothing," describing the first sounds as "reed frail." The succinctness disarms how few words can spark such emotion.

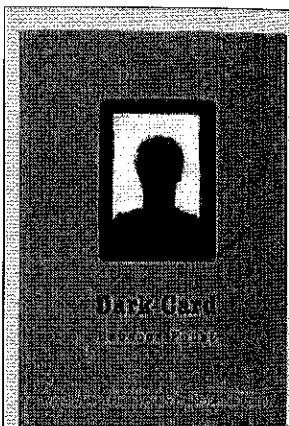
The language is powerful, at times fierce and angry, recklessly directed at doctors, genes, and drugs, devastation spitting flames of blame at most anything. Put quite simply, "[e]veryone else is the problem."

Foust soothes the heated tone with odes to her son sprinkled throughout the book. She describes in detail his gifts, keeping the pages turning:

to... spend a whole day with a paperclips stylus carving whorls and curlicues in acorns... each minute difference an opportunity point on which another difference can hook and turn and spread again; a thought diagram of the branches that split and re-split, blooming a pattern so rich and complex it quickly becomes chaos to us—and he's never been happier than when.

These loving descriptions of her son are the highlight of the book, humbling reminders that the person we speak of is standing in the room with us.

FOUST, REBECCA. *DARK CARD*. HUNTSVILLE: TEXAS REVIEW PRESS, 2008. 40 PP. \$8.95 PAPER. ISBN 13: 978-1-933896-14-4.



Rebecca Foust's journal publications include *Atlanta Review*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Margie*, *Nimrod International Journal*, *North American Review*, and *South Carolina Review*. *Dark Card* is winner of the 2007 Robert Phillips Poetry Chapbook Prize.

Alan Govenar is a writer, photographer, folklorist, and filmmaker who lives in Dallas. Through his nonprofit organization, Documentary Arts, Inc., he has worked in association with NOVA, La Sept/ARTE, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting on a number of projects. He is also co-creator of *Blind Lemon Blues*, a musical based on the life of Blind Lemon Jefferson.

O. Rufus Lovett is a nationally acclaimed photographer. He is a Texas Monthly contributing photographer and teaches photography at Kilgore College. In 2005 he was named a Piper Professor. He lives in Longview, about ninety-five miles from Weeping Mary.

## *Texas Blues: The Rise of a Contemporary Sound* Alan Govenar

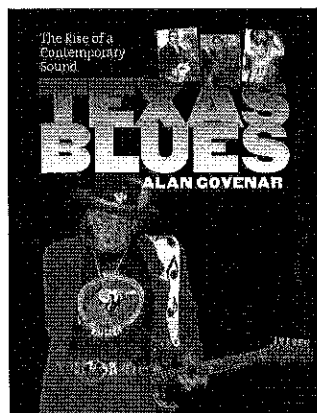
**A Texas Music Lover's Dream**  
Review by Holly Carey

This 624-page encyclopedia is a must-have for fans of Texas Blues and would make an excellent gift for fans of Texas music as well.

The book is packed with 495 pictures, includes illustrations, artist interviews, and a discography. But that's only the half of it. Govenar also provides a bibliography, list of illustrations, and an index.

Govenar has selected 110 of the most influential Texas musicians and documents how they have shaped and changed contemporary music. He includes such legendary figures as Blind Lemon Jefferson, Lighthn Hopkins, Freddie Fender, Delbert McClinton, Aaron T-Bone Walker, and of course Stevie Ray Vaughn.

I can't praise this one enough; it was truly a delight to read. Highly recommended.



GOVENAR, ALAN. *TEXAS BLUES: THE RISE OF A CONTEMPORARY SOUND*. COLLEGE STATION: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2008. 624 PP. BIBLIOGRAPHY, INDEX, PHOTOS. \$40.00 CLOTH. ISBN 10: 1-58544-605-X. ISBN 13: 978-1-58544-605-6. LC 2007039152.

## *Weeping Mary: Photographs* by O. Rufus Lovett

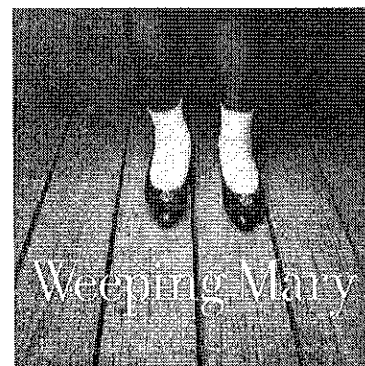
O. Rufus Lovett

**Photographic Essay of a Small Texas Town**  
Review by Holly Carey

Weeping Mary is a small town set in the East Texas piney woods. Its origins are rumored to date back to post Civil War days, and legend has it that an African American woman named Mary was tricked out of selling her land to a wealthy white male who apparently used a black man to purchase the land for him. When Mary found that the white man was the true land owner, she apparently wept so much that the town was named Weeping Mary. Other legends claim that the town was named for Mary Magdalene or from the name of a Catholic Church, Our Lady of Sorrows.

Lovett's book was ten years in the making, and it beautifully and authentically captures the rural black culture for this small town. The photographs reveal Lovett's respect for and what he describes as a "kinship" with Weeping Mary's residents.

The press release that came with this book summarizes this photographic essay perfectly: "As a collection, the photographs create a portrait of a community rich in spirit, in which people are 'married to this place which is theirs and appears to stand still, but which subtly moves forward with the rest of the world in the twenty-first century'."



LOVETT, O. RUFUS. *WEeping MARY: PHOTOGRAPHS BY O. RUFUS LOVETT*. AUSTIN: UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PRESS, 2006. 164 PP. PHOTOS. \$45. PAPER. ISBN 10: 0-292-70932-3. ISBN 13: 978-0-292-70932-4. LC 2006006553.



# Humming Birds of Texas with Their New Mexico and Arizona Ranges

Clifford Shackelford,  
Madge M. Lindsay,  
C. Mark Klym

**Brilliantly Illustrated**  
Review by Holly Carey

First published in 2005, *Hummingbirds of Texas* is now available in a light flex bound with flaps, so it's perfectly portable for those hummingbird sighting trips. The new release also includes updated sightings.

This guide is appropriate for both experienced birders and those who, like myself, simply enjoy seeing them in the backyard. The book features color photographs (which do an excellent job of capturing these brilliantly colored flying friends) and illustrations.

The book also explores the human attraction to hummingbirds and offers gardening tips and lists of plants to attract them to your yard. The authors additionally detail humming bird events held in Texas

With explanations of hummingbird nesting, breeding, feeding, and winter migration behavior, plus an abundance graph and range map, this is a nature guide anyone can enjoy.



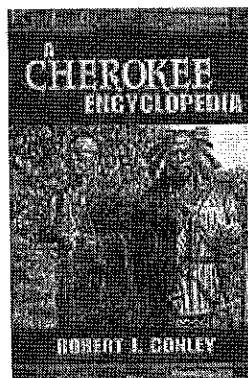
SHACKELFORD, CLIFFORD E., MADGE M. LINDSAY, AND C. MARK KLYM. *HUMMING BIRDS OF TEXAS WITH THEIR NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA RANGES*. COLLEGE STATION: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2009. 112 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS, INDEX, MAPS, PHOTOS. \$19.95 PAPER. ISBN 10: 1-60344-110-7. ISBN 13: 978-1-60344-110-0. LC 2004028320.

# A Cherokee Encyclopedia

Robert J. Conley

**All about the Cherokees**  
Review by Emma B. Hawkins

Since the history of the Cherokee Indian Nation encompasses their settlements in both the eastern and mid-western United States, this book is especially informative. In encyclopedia format, the author has collected facts about significant historical events, places, and things, but mostly about individual Cherokees. An introduction of four-and-a-half pages provides a brief overview of the early history of the Cherokees from the time that the first European settlers encountered them to the beginning of the modern Cherokee Nation. A few small, black-and-white photographs, mostly of people, enhance several entries. Some of the more interesting non-people entries deal with "Casinos," the games of "Marbles" and "Stickball," the "Constitution of the Cherokee Nation," and "Tahlequah (Oklahoma)." Of particular interest to me, an Oklahoman, were the biographical entries for Will Rogers, perhaps Oklahoma's most famous native son, and the Starr(s), Belle Starr (wife of Sam and daughter-in-law of Tom), some of the most infamous. As a child, I spent several wonderful weekends with my family visiting Devil's Den (Oklahoma), the famous hideout/hangout of the notorious Belle Starr and her band of outlaws. More relevant to Texan readers would probably be the biographical blurbs of David Crockett and Sam Houston, individuals who are dear to the hearts of Texans, and Chief Bowles who represents the deplorable treatment of Indians at the hands of land-greedy Texans.



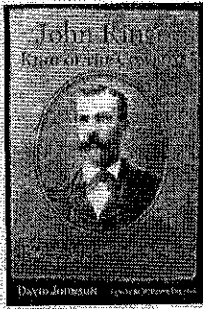
CONLEY, ROBERT J. *A CHEROKEE ENCYCLOPEDIA*. ALBUQUERQUE: UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO PRESS, 2007. 290 PP. PHOTOGRAPHS. \$24.95 CLOTH. ISBN 13: 978-0-8263-3951-5.

Clifford Shackelford is the state-wide non-game ornithologist at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Nacogdoches.

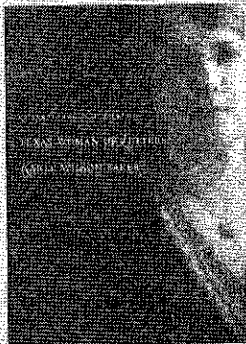
Madge M. Lindsay is the former executive director of Audubon Mississippi in Holly Springs. She resides in Fort Davis.

C. Mark Klym is an information specialist at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Austin.

Robert J. Conley is a member of the Western Writers of America and has won two Spur awards. He is an enrolled member of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma and the Sequoyah Distinguished Professor in Cherokee Studies at Western Carolina University.



David Johnson has received degrees from Pennsylvania State University and Purdue University. He is the author of *The Mason County "Hoo Doo" War, 1874-1902*.



Sarah Ragland Jackson is a retired faculty member of the Department of English at Stephen F. Austin University.

## *John Ringo King of the Cowboys: His Life and Times from the Hoo Doo War to Tombstone*

David Johnson

**One More Western Legend**  
Review by Emma B. Hawkins

Many natives of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona have grown up hearing stories and tales about and visiting the hideouts and/or burial sites of the famous and infamous legendary characters of the west. Some were lawmen, some were outlaws, and others were a mixture of both. John Ringo seems to fall into the third category. At times he served on the side of justice and right; at other times he was involved in "shady" activities. But, far too many times he was credited with exaggerated, garbled, scandalous and even down right false deeds that eventually were responsible for an "inflated reputation" (164) that was exceedingly "swollen out of proportion" (131). As a second edition of an earlier 1996 biography, this book updates and traces the life of John Peters Ringo from his birth in 1850 in Indiana, through his involvement in the Texas Hoo Doo War (more formally called the Mason County War/Disturbance) and later association with the Earps in Arizona, to his suicide in 1882. Three of the more interesting facets include the author's tracing of Ringo's increasing "erratic" and "flawed" judgment due to alcoholic dissipation, the exploration of the appearance of the word "cow boy" and its etymological development (as reported by E. B. Pomroy and John J. Linn, 122), and the realistic, non-glamorized, non-sensationalized view of the Earp brothers. The book is well worth a read.

JOHNSON, DAVID. *JOHN RINGO: KING OF THE COWBOYS: HIS LIFE AND TIMES FROM THE HOO DOO WAR TO TOMBSTONE*. 2<sup>ND</sup> ED. DENTON: UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS PRESS, 2008. 384 PP. APPENDIXES, BIBLIOGRAPHY, ILLUSTRATIONS, INDEX, NOTES, PHOTOS. \$29.95. CLOTH. ISBN 10: 0-935269-23-1. ISBN 13-978-1-57441-243-7. LC 96-44951.

## *Texas Woman of Letters: Karle Wilson Baker* Sarah Ragland Jackson

**Chronicles of Karle Wilson Baker's Writing**  
Review by Sara Pace

This work chronicles the writing life of Karle Wilson Baker (a lifelong resident of Nacogdoches well known for her regional poetry and prose works), a force among Texas writers in the mid 1900s who also earned a reputation as a professor of writing. Baker was, in fact, part of an elite group that included J. Frank Dobie and Robert Frost. Jackson emphasizes Baker's domesticity as well as her public life; she superbly illustrates Baker as a woman who evolved from a quite housewife, content to study birdlife, to a woman who traveled the country to teach, lecture, and read her works.

Drawing from only the most telling excerpts of Baker's personal writing (and she was prolific), Jackson lets much of Baker's reflection speak for itself. There is an excellent balance between Jackson's commentary and her willingness to jettison some of the biographer ego in order to let her subject have the stage. Jackson also humanizes her subject, not only chronicling her vast talents for poetry and prose, but also highlighting Baker's acceptance of mentoring from other writers who were more accomplished in genres she wished to dabble in.

Most of the chapters are rich with excerpts from Baker's own journals, and although they are technically writer-based prose, they offer an interested reader a glimpse into Baker's writing process. The tremendous effort Jackson poured into this biography (an effort bolstered by a grant from Stephen F. Austin University) is evident in both the number of sources she sifted through to learn about Baker and in her selectivity in using her sources.

Anything but pedantic, Jackson's style presents Baker in such a way that a reader can both identify with her and also be drawn into the literary adventures she undertook. Her style is engaging, and she includes interesting photographs of not only Baker but also the places she lived in the Nacogdoches region (Baker was, after all, a writer first and

*Continued on page seven*

*Continued from page six*  
foremost concerned with place as a means of inspiration for her works).

Though written for a general audience (and high school readers would certainly find the work accessible), those in academe will especially appreciate how Jackson weaves in a compelling history of correspondence between Baker and several prominent professors at Texas Universities as well as a depiction of Baker's own development as a professor of the craft of writing.

JACKSON, SARAH RAGLAND. *TEXAS WOMAN OF LETTERS: KARLE WILSON BAKER, COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2005. 256 PP. BIBLIOGRAPHY, ILLUSTRATIONS, INDEX, NOTES, PHOTOS. \$34.95 CLOTH. ISBN 1-58544-456-1. LC 2005005303.*

## *Welcome to Oakland* Eric Miles Williamson

**In Your Face**  
Review by Brandon Shuler

Eric Miles Williamson's *Welcome to Oakland* is the book the Beats would have written if their privileged upbringings hadn't sent them to the Horace Manns and Columbias of the world. Seldom a book comes along that walks into your comfortable suburban living room, grabs you by your designer lapels, and screams in your face, "This is the truth, man."

Williamson unabashedly tells us the truth as he sees it in all of its filthy, stinking beauty. While other authors struggle to find the politically correct décolletage of an adjective to make their point, Williamson shoves his in your face with a fist-strangled bouquet of malodorously delicious prosody. He introduces readers to the underside of Oakland's elite blue collar hard-working men and women and leads a new generation to Jack London's 21st century's *People of the Abyss*.

In *Welcome to Oakland*, *East Bay Grease*'s loveable T-Bird Murphy returns grown and struggling with new and adult adventures. Yet as Williamson takes us on the whirlwind ride of exquisite expletives and jack-hammered pounding prose through T-Bird's streets of Oakland and to the liquor soaked stools of Dick's Bar, he is redefining American literature and letting T-Bird weave the tale.

Reminiscent of Zola's *Les Rougon-Macquart*, Williamson's Oakland Trilogy (*East Bay Grease*, *Welcome to Oakland*, and *Oakland, Jack London, and Me*) shows us the insidious world of conniving ex-wives, the romantic loyalty of hard-drinking, pickled-livered construction workers, and the tumult of living on the edge of Oakland's abyss. He does it with a verve and determination lacking in today's pedantically written, woe is me personal essays of tragedy and addiction. Which good ol' T-Bird Murphy and Eric Miles Williamson will tell the sycophants of today's tawdry letters, "Get over it."

WILLIAMSON, ERIC MILES. *WELCOME TO OAKLAND, HYATTSVILLE, RAW DOG SCREAMING PRESS, 2009. 239 PP. \$15.95 PAPER. ISBN 978-1-933293-80-6. \$29.99 CLOTH. ISBN 978-1-933293-79-0.*

## *Texian Macabre: The Melancholy Tale of a Hanging in Early Houston* Stephen L. Hardin

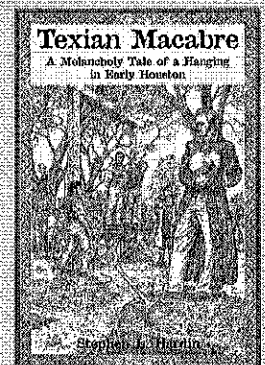
**From Hero to Hanged**  
Review by Janet K. Turk

In Hardin's fascinating *Texian Macabre*, readers stroll through early Texas history as if they had actually been living during the time period shortly after the Texas Revolution. There is the one-armed newspaper editor who employs a crime to advance his sanctimonious agenda; the Kentucky lawyer who enjoys champagne breakfasts and collecting human skulls; the Alamo widow whose circumstances force her into the oldest profession; the sociopathic physician who slaughters an innocent man in a duel; and the German immigrant who sees rats gnaw the finger off of an infant in his cradle. With these true life characters, it is no wonder that this history of early Houston reads like a novel. Houston is the capital of the Texas Republic, but the city is squalid and overrun with "rowdy loafers" with too much time on their hands and too little money. How does the main character, David James Jones, go from being a hero of the Texas Revolution to swinging from the gallows in front of two to three thousand

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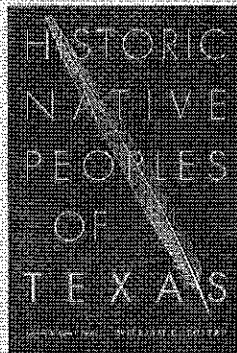
Eric Miles Williamson is an editor of *American Book Review*, *Boulevard* and *The Texas Review*. *Welcome to Oakland* has been optioned for a TV series.



Stephen L. Hardin has been a historical consultant on several motion pictures including the 2004 production of *The Alamo*.



Rosario Sanmiguel is also the author of *Arboles o apuntes de viaje* and *Callejón Sucre y otros relatos*.



William Foster is an award-winning historian and fellow of the Texas State Historical Association. He is author of *Spanish Expeditions into Texas 1689-1768*.

*Continued from page seven*

Houstonians? David Jones stood trial March 22, 1838. He was accused of the murder of quickly found guilty. Hardin explores the economics, mindsets, and general attitudes which led to both the murder and hanging to occur.

Readers of Texas history and individuals with knowledge of Houston will find this book to be mesmerizing. Highly recommended for all libraries both private and public.

HARDIN, STEPHEN L. *TEXIAN MACABRE: A MELANCHOLY TALE OF A HANGING IN EARLY HOUSTON*. COLLEGE STATION: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2007. 176 PP. APPENDIX, BIBLIOGRAPHY, ILLUSTRATIONS, INDEX, MAPS, NOTES. \$24.95 CLOTH. ISBN 10: 193333720-6. ISBN 13: 978-1-933337-20-3.

## *Under the Bridge: Stories from the Border / Bajo el Puente: Relatos desde la frontera*

Rosario Sanmiguel

John Pluecker: English Translation

**Texas-Mexico Border Stories**

Review by Janet K. Turk

This collection of stories is set along the Texas-Mexico border and explores the interwoven lives of several individuals in search of their places in life. In the title story, Mónica's boyfriend, Martin, is a *pasamojado*, a human smuggler. While she waits for him under the bridge that connects El Paso to Ciudad Juárez, Mónica sees him arguing with a man. When she asks Martin about the incident, he explains that the argument was about smuggling. Later, Mónica finds herself in a tire tube being pulled across the river by Martin. When the Border Patrol show up, things go terribly wrong for the young couple.

Readers will find Sanmiguel's writing style enjoyable and her storylines intriguing. The collection contains both English and Spanish versions of the stories. Recommended for all libraries, especially those along the border.

SANMIGUEL, ROSARIO. *UNDER THE BRIDGE: STORIES FROM THE BORDER / BAJO EL PUENTE: RELATOS DESDE LA FRONTERA*. HOUSTON: ARTE PÚBLICO PRESS, 2008. 240 PP. \$14.95 PAPER. ISBN 10: 1-55885-514-9. ISBN 13: 978-1-55885-514-4. LC 2007047390.

## *Historic Native Peoples of Texas*

William C. Foster

**How Native People Were Living When Europeans first Came to Texas**

Frances M. Ramsey

The recent availability of good English translations of the accounts of early European expeditions into Texas inspired eminent historian Foster to document the lifestyles and cultural patterns of the historic Indians of Texas between 1528 and 1722.

He has divided Texas into eight ethnographic areas with a chapter devoted to each. A map of each area shows the routes taken by the French and Spanish explorers and the location of major tribes. A description of the environment in the area is followed by reasons for the travel of each group and the Indians encountered with attention to living conditions, whether settled farming communities or nomadic hunter-gatherers. Alliances, enmity, and extensive trade are described. Each of these chapters ends with a summary and a list of the tribes found in the area.

The final chapter summarizes conclusions based on information from over forty chroniclers on twenty-seven major expeditions into Texas. Major long term climate changes affected agriculture and pasture for bison and other wild game. Even before horses were available to the native people, they traveled widely and had trade or other relationships extending over 500 miles. Sign language was significant in allowing diverse groups to understand one another.

Appendices identify the animals and plants reported. Recommended for academic libraries and those interested in Texas historic native peoples.

FOSTER, WILLIAM C. *HISTORIC NATIVE PEOPLES OF TEXAS*. AUSTIN: UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PRESS, 2008. 376 PP. APPENDICES, BIBLIOGRAPHY, INDEX, MAPS, NOTES. LC 2007043191. \$24.95 PAPER. ISBN 13: 978-0-292-71793-0. \$60.00 CLOTH. ISBN 13: 978-0-292-71792-3.



## Nature at Your Doorstep

John & Gloria Tveten

### Seeing the Wonders around Us

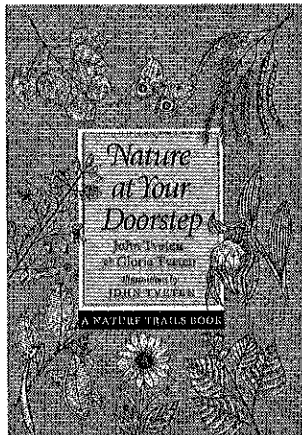
Review by Frances M. Ramsey

This collection of nature essays is the third volume based on the authors' *Nature Trails* column which appeared in the *Houston Chronicle*. These veteran Texas naturalists from Baytown are frequent speakers and field trip leaders at nature and birding events. Organized by category, these essays reveal the authors' enjoyment of nature whether in their own yard or in their travels.

They describe how various plants and animals cope with extremes of heat or cold and reproduce to ensure survival of the species. Anecdotes describe their observations of butterflies, many other insects, reptiles and amphibians, marine creatures, and mammals from pronghorns to pocket mice.

These accounts will be a delight to those who have shared an interest in observing nature. They will be an eye opener to newcomers to the field. Biology teachers will find good illustrations of concepts and interesting reading for their students. John Tveten's fine drawings enhance most pages, illustrating the subjects under discussion.

Whether one chooses to savor one essay at a sitting or read straight through, this book is highly recommended as a source of intriguing information and appreciation of our world.



TVETEN, JOHN & GLORIA. *NATURE AT YOUR DOORSTEP*. COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2008. 224 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$24.95 CLOTH. ISBN 10: 10: 1-60344-036-4. ISBN 13: 978-1-60344-036-3. LC 2007048112.



## Selections for Children and Young Adults

### John Barclay Armstrong Texas Ranger

Judy Alter

### Not Just a Ranger

Review by Holly Carey

Young adult readers will enjoy this thorough history and biography of John Barclay Armstrong. Divided into six chapters, Alter has accompanied the text with side bars of tidbits of interesting information; she has provided plenty of photographs as well, and the book concludes with a glossary and timeline of Armstrong's life.

Although most famous for his capture of outlaw John Wesley Hardin, Armstrong also had a rich and well-rounded upbringing. He was born New Year's Day in 1850 in McMinnville, Tennessee, into a family of five other siblings. His father was a prominent physician and citizen, which led to Armstrong being fairly well educated for his time.

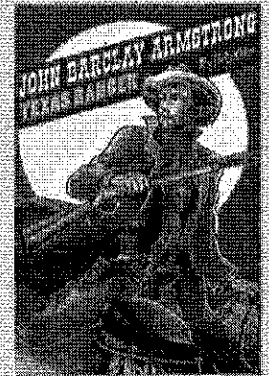
After the Civil War, Armstrong traveled through Missouri, Arkansas, and finally settled in Austin, Texas, where he became a member of the Texas Rifles. In 1874, under Captain Leander McNelly, Armstrong became part of the legendary Texas Rangers, one of the state's oldest law enforcement agencies.

Armstrong was eventually promoted to sergeant and, after McNelly's death, second lieutenant.

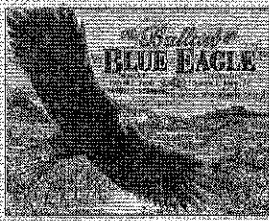
Eventually settling with long-time friend Mollie Durst, he retired from the Rangers in 1878 and began his family. He grounded himself in real estate, became an established rancher, and, like his father, a prominent citizen.

ALTER, JUDY. *JOHN BARCLAY ARMSTRONG: TEXAS RANGER*. ALBANY: BRIGHT SKY PRESS, 2007. 60 PP. GLOSSARY. PHOTOS. \$14.95 CLOTH. ISBN 13: 978-1-931721-86-8. LC 2007005623.

John Tveten and Gloria Tveten are veteran Texas naturalists, writers, and photographers.



Judy Alter is the author of numerous books for children and young adults. Her latest titles are *Henrietta King, Rancher and Philanthropist*, *Mirabeau B. Lamar: Second President of Texas*, and *Miriam "Ma" Ferguson: First Woman Governor of Texas*.



Steven E. Jones, in collaboration with his son Steven E. Jones Jr., continues his own father's legacy with this series of books, inspired by the original Blue Eagle stories his father shared with generations of children. Jones and his wife live in Houston and have a vacation home in Kerville.

Steven E. Jones, Jr. is a professional graphic designer and artist living in Austin.

## *The Ballad of Blue Eagle & Blue Eagle Meets Double Trouble*

Steven E. Jones

### Welcome to Peaceful Valley

Review by Holly Carey

Peaceful Valley is led by a stealthy, powerful, royal bird: Blue Eagle. His talons are mighty; his wingspan twenty inches, and all in the valley, both friend and foe, revere him. But this amazing and awesome ruler's creed?—"do unto others."

Blue eagle has many friends: Arny Armadillo, Pete Rabbit, Timber the Beaver, Rio Raccoon, Toby Turtle, a weasel, buck, porcupine, and duck.

One challenge Blue Eagle and his friends face is a cranky cougar named Clugar, and he becomes more a menace as the years go on.

One night Clugar sneaks into Peaceful Valley, and in the morning, he attacks the Peaceful Valley friends as they play a game of hide-and-seek. After havoc takes place, Blue Eagle, with his powerful talons, scoops Clugar up and away. As he warns Clugar to leave Peaceful Valley's residents alone and drops him mid-air, Clugar cries for help and promises to listen to Blue Eagle's every word. With that, Blue Eagle rescues Clugar and warns him to never return to Peaceful Valley again.

As the Peaceful Valley friends slowly learn that everyone is okay, life returns to normal, and they soon frolic and praise each other's part in getting Clugar to leave.

The book concludes with a tune (complete with musical notes) by Toby the Turtle that celebrates differences, individuality, and friendship. This text teaches a valuable lesson in working together in times of adversity and treating others as we ourselves would be treated.

JONES, STEVEN E. *THE BALLAD OF BLUE EAGLE*. HOUSTON: BLUE EAGLE BOOKS, 2004. 32 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$16.95 CLOTH. ISBN 10: 0-9747644-4-2.

### Another Lesson in Working Together and Toby's Shell of Many Colors

Review by Holly Carey

In this sequel to *The Ballad of Blue Eagle*, Blue's brother faces a flood and needs Blue's help. He tells his Peaceful Valley friends that he'll be gone for a while but that everything should be okay if they all work together. Scared without Blue's leadership Toby, Arny, Pete, and the others start to worry.

Enter Clem and Clod, two coyotes driven to Peaceful Valley by the ensuing rains. Hungry and determined to catch a rabbit or squirrel, they announce their arrival via their awful coyote song.

Pete leads what critter friends he can into the valley, those that can swim head for the river, and those that can fly head for the trees. All are quiet as they wait for Clem and Clod.

Soon the two discover Arny, Toby, and Laverne, but they each use their natural-given skills: Laverne sprays Clem as Arny rolls out of his protective ball, and runs past. Toby comes out of his shell and bites Clod's tail.

The storm passes, and Peaceful Valley regains its beauty. The rains bring rich colors, lush grass, and blooming foliage. Clod can't rid himself of his new companion.

Blue returns, and Daniel Duck tells him of the valley's adventures. As with Clugar, Blue scoops up Clem and sweeps him off; along the way he sees Toby dragging Clod by the tail. Blue flies both Clem and Clod back to the Northern valley.

Meanwhile the residents of Peaceful Valley come out of hiding and resume their playing. Everyone notices that Toby's shell is now multicolored, and Toby's feelings are hurt. Blue consoles him and tells him purple is a sign of stature. Thus for all his bravery, Toby, no longer just a turtle, and a brave one that, is now transformed into a TURPLE! And with that, the evening celebration begins.

JONES, STEVEN E. *BLUE EAGLE MEETS DOUBLE TROUBLE*. HOUSTON: BLUE EAGLE BOOKS, 2008. 32 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$15.95 CLOTH. ISBN 10: 0-9794655-0-8. ISBN 13: 978-0-9794655-0-5.

## *Little Zizi* Thierry Lenain

**The Nightmare that Mothers of Toddler Boys Must Share!**  
Review by Holly Carey

I was at first skeptical about featuring this book; a public school library might have reservations about ordering this selection, but as a mother of a five year old boy, I quickly changed my mind. I have witnessed my son unzip his pants and tinkle in front of his early childhood development center. Yes, other parents and children saw; he apparently confused school with our annual spring time back woods camping trips. He has done other deeds of the same type that have made me want to render myself invisible.

*Little Zizi* is a treasure of a book that teaches and encourages young boys to be comfortable with their bodies and genitalia.

The book features the most of embarrassing moments for children, including being caught naked in a swimming class changing room and made fun of by the other boys. Of course name-calling and other insults ensue later in the day.

That night, Martin, now otherwise known as little Zizi, dreams a dream that all adolescent boys must after such embarrassment. The dream is one young boy's challenge, but I'll leave the outcome to the reader. For me, after all the bullying children, both boys and girls, inevitably face, Martin learns a valuable lesson in both self confidence and friendship.



LENAIN, THIERRY. *LITTLE ZIZI*. EL PASO: CINCO PUNTOS PRESS, 2008. 32 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$16.95 CLOTH. ISBN 13: 978-1-933693-05-7. LC 2007019443.

## *Sam Houston Standing Firm* Mary Dodson Wade

**Portrait of a Texas Hero**  
Review by Holly Carey

This book begins with a bold statement about Houston: "His Own Way." A staunch individualist, he always did what he believed to be right, despite opposition.

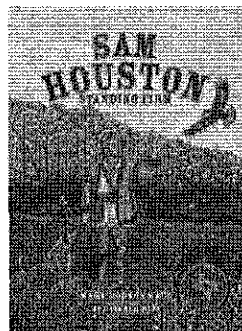
The book provides pronunciation guides as the text chronicles Houston's upbringing—born in Virginia, his father died when Houston was only thirteen, and he, his mother, and five siblings subsequently moved to Tennessee.

An avid reader, Houston ironically quit school at age sixteen to work in a family grocery. He soon fled to live with the Cherokee Indians and was so well accepted that the tribal chief adopted him as his own, and Houston's name was changed to Co-lon-neh, or, Raven.

After three years, Houston returned to Tennessee and became a teacher. In about a year he joined General Andrew Jackson's army and at the age of twenty-five Houston was elected congressman of Tennessee.

The book then traces Houston's role in building Texas. We see chapters describing the Battle of the Alamo, the Battle of San Jacinto, and how Houston became the state's first president. Wade also includes Houston's roles as Texas senator and governor.

The book concludes by noting that Houston and Stephen F. Austin were chosen as the most important men in Texas during their time.



WADE, MARY DODSON. *SAM HOUSTON STANDING FIRM*. HOUSTON: BRIGHT SKY PRESS, 2009. 32 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$16.95 CLOTH. ISBN 13: 978-1-933979-13-7. LC 2008043040.

Thierry Lenain is a distinguished French author who has published more than fifty books for children.

Stephane Poulin is internationally acclaimed, publishing over fifty books in Canada, the United States, France, and Belgium. His illustrations are exhibited around the world.

Daniel Zolinsky, translator of *Little Zizi*, is a celebrated photographer. His photographs are anthologized in books in Europe where he often works.

Mary Dodson Wade is the author of more than fifty books for children. She and her husband live in Houston.

Joy Fisher Hein is illustrator of the award-winning *Miss Ladybird's Wildflowers*. She has been selected as the artist for the 2009 Texas Reading Club.

Joe Hayes is a recognized storyteller of tales from the Hispanic, Native American, and Anglo cultures.

Mauricio Trenard Sayago was raised in a home closely linked with art. He describes his painting as a mental exercise without obligations to cultural patterns or stereotypes of beauty.

Carmen Tafolla is one of the most anthologized Latina poets in the United States. She is also a recipient of the Art of Peace Award.

Amy Córdova has also illustrated *Abuelita's Heart* as well as many other children's books.

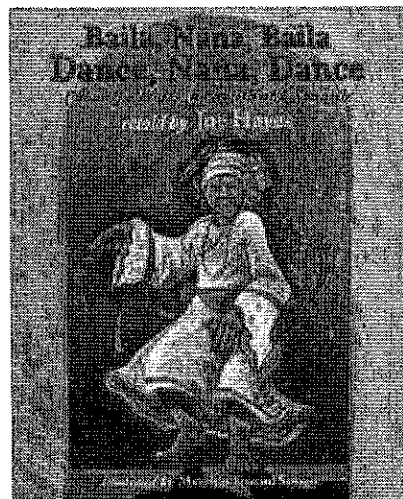
## *Dance, Nana, Dance / Baila, Nana, Baila: Cuban Folktales in English and Spanish* Joe Hayes

Unique and Entertaining Folktales  
Review by Andrea Karlin

Joe Hayes, in the introduction of his book of Cuban folktales *Dance, Nana, Dance / Baila, Nana, Baila*, writes, "the most important thing is to have fun reading and telling stories." Indeed, readers will have fun doing both with these unique and entertaining stories.

Each folktale in the collection is written in English and Spanish and illustrated by Cuban born artist Mauricio Trenard Sayago, who now resides in the United States. A full page illustration precedes each of the thirteen folktales and provides readers with a perfect visual reference for the stories that Mr. Hayes has taken care to retell in the Cuban tradition.

Mr. Hayes has also included a section at the back of the book titled "Notes to Readers and Storytellers," which gives a short background for each retold story in this rich collection.



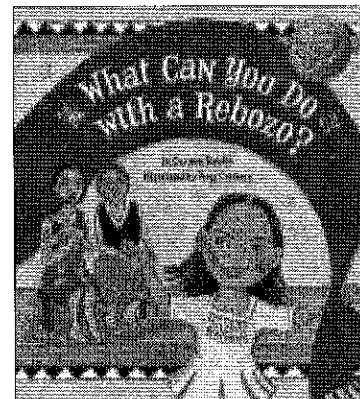
HAYES, JOE. *DANCE, NANA, DANCE / BAILA, NANA, BAILA: CUBAN FOLKTALES IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH*. EL PASO: CINCO PUNTOS PRESS, 2008. 128 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$20.95 CLOTH. ISBN 10: 1-933693-17-7. ISBN 13: 978-1-933693-17-0. LC 2007038295.

## *What Can You Do With a Rebozo? / ¿Qué Puedes Hacer Con un Rebozo?* Carmen Tafolla

The Beauty and Usefulness of Something Seemingly Simple  
Review by Andrea Karlin

In award-winning Carmen Tafolla's book *What Can You Do with a Rebozo?*, a little girl recounts many of the uses that she, her mother, her grandmother, and her cousins have for their colorful Mexican woven shawls called rebozos. Amy Cordova's illustrations transport the reader to Mexico or the Southwest with their bold colors and realistic style that perfectly match the mood of this delightful story.

The simple text is written in English and Spanish, and although the translation of some of the corresponding text is not exact, the differences do not distract from this charming story for young children.



TAFOLLA, CARMEN. *WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A REBOZO? / ¿QUÉ PUEDES HACER CON UN REBOZO?*. BERKELEY: TRICYCLE PRESS, 2008. 32 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. LC 2006039624.

\$7.99 PAPER. ISBN 10: 1-58246-271-2.  
ISBN 13: 978-1-58246-271-4.

\$14.99 CLOTH. ISBN 10: 1-58246-270-4.  
ISBN 13: 978-1-58246-270-7.



# *No Pig's Brain Soup, Please!*

Gail Greenberg

**Lessons in Identifying One's Culture**  
Review by JoAn W. Martin

Tali struggles at school, trying to decide which customs and culture identify her. Jewish American parents have adopted her, but she is Chinese. On International Night, her Chinese friend, Liang, brings pig's brain soup. Tali's reaction: "Yuck!" But Liang insists Tali was Chinese first, so she must like such a traditional Chinese dish as pig's brain soup.

The idea of pig's brain soup makes Tali's choice of costumes and appropriate clothes confusing. She chooses Jewish instead of Chinese, but she feels she has abandoned her favorite Chinese doll.

When the beautiful Mrs. Chang says she dislikes pig's brain soup, Tali realizes she doesn't have to make a choice. As her Chinese food and Jewish food run together on her plate, Tali develops an appreciation for a blend of cultures and recognizes that she has a rich background of Chinese and Jewish.

Illustrator Lauren Forgie handles the challenge of illustrating the numerous varieties of faces in a diverse classroom as they all participate in the parade of flags. She enhances the page numbers with alternate symbols of Chinese and Jewish, and her portrayal of the gigantic dragon is impressive.

Ms. Greenberg adds sidebars to help readers learn factual information while enjoying the story. An authentic recipe is included.



GREENBERG, GAIL. *NO PIG'S BRAIN SOUP, PLEASE!* DURANT: KAM PUBLISHING, 2009. 32 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$18.95 CLOTH. ISBN 13: 978-0-9795474-3-0.

# *Mr. Stranger and the Lost Puppy*

Diane King

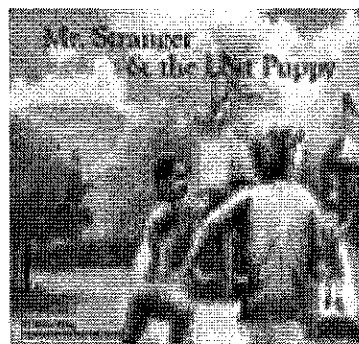
**A Lesson in Child Safety**  
Review by JoAn W. Martin

Dejon and Mark are excited that the park is better than ever with much new equipment added. They assure their mom that they will respect the boundaries and stay away from the adjoining woods.

However, A hide-and-seek game becomes their undoing. A man asks their help in finding a lost puppy. Who could resist the challenge? Then mom's instructions pop into Dejon's head: never leave with anyone—not even a neighbor. Dejon suggests that they tell their mom they are going to help find the dog. The more insistent the man is the more suspicious Dejon becomes.

Parents know it is important to warn their children about predators, but how do they introduce the topic without scaring them unduly? After all they see friendly adults visiting with strangers every day. This story will promote a dialogue between parents and children about the dangers they need to watch for and the appropriate reactions they should take. Knowing boundaries, guidelines, and limits will help children play safe.

Illustrator Jerrold Jones uses muted colors, but distinct figures, showing them playing joyfully in a beautiful setting. The clouds in a blue sky seem almost air brushed. As the text becomes more serious, the background darkens. A beautiful book with a timely message.



KING, DIANE. *MR. STRANGER AND THE LOST PUPPY*. HOUSTON: DK NOVELS AND PLAYWRIGHTS, 2007. 32 PP. ILLUSTRATIONS. \$8.95 PAPER. ISBN 10: 0979803616 ISBN 13: 978-0-9798036-1-6.

*No Pig's Brain Soup, Please!* is Gail Greenberg's first published children's book and was a Runner Up in the ABC's Children's Picture Book Competition. Her Chinese adopted daughter was the inspiration for the story.

Lauren Forgie is a graphic designer and has enjoyed painting, drawing, and illustrating stories since childhood.

Diane King is currently working on creating an Awareness Series which will include *Mr. Stranger and the Lost Puppy* along with stories that focus on other common tactics used by strangers to lure children away.

Jerrold Jones is a talented up and coming artist; his work has been featured in magazines and displayed in Borders book stores in San Antonio.



Mary E. Penson is the author of two other novels: *You're an Orphan*, *Mollie Brown* and *Billy Bardin and the Witness Tress*.



In addition to writing novels, H. J. Ralles is a popular creative writing teacher. She is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

## Martha Mary Overstreet, M. D.

Mary E. Penson

Can a Girl Aspire to Be a Doctor in 1887?  
Review by Frances M. Ramsey

Martha Mary "Marty" Overstreet is in her last year of grade school in a small Texas town. Her best friend Amanda has her eye on the boys with a hope for early marriage. Marty is not so sure. She definitely does not want to end up exhausted by hard work and the birth of nine children like her mother. As first daughter she is her mother's best helper with household chores and care of the younger children. She has also helped her father with birthing farm animals.

After she repairs her little sister's broken doll and sews their dog's injured paw, she begins to think about being a doctor. Although the family usually, relies on home remedies, when Marty injures her arm, her mother insists on a visit to the doctor. Her friendship with the doctor makes her even more determined, but everyone knows a girl cannot be a doctor.

Although the doctor continues to steer her toward nursing, he allows her to accompany him on home visits, a difficult birth, and a flu epidemic. Impressed with her intelligence, hard work, and caring, he helps her toward her goal. Her love for her family, growing friendship with a boy classmate, and the encouragement of her teacher create tension as she chooses her path.

Mary Penson brings to life the time and place, the tensions of family life, and women's opportunities of that day.

This Chaparral Book for Young Readers is recommended for grade 5 and up.

PENSON, MARY E. *MARTHA MARY OVERSTREET, M.D.* FORT WORTH, TEXAS: CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2007. 142 PP. \$11.95 PAPER. ISBN 10: 0-87565-345-6. ISBN 13: 978-0-87565-345-7. LC 2006027597.

## Final Feature: Two Authors, Two Views of Each Other's Latest Works:

JoAn W. Martin

&

H. J. Ralles

## *The Curse of Charron*

H. J. Ralles

Edge-of-Your Seat Adventure  
Review by JoAn W. Martin

Cooper and Nadia think they have been abandoned in the desert by their fellow space travelers. With 120 degree heat, their first priority is to find water. They hope Ferros Space Control will send a rescue ship. Cooper tries to hide a medal in his mouth which will transmit their location, but his trick does not work. Instead of the expected rescue, they are placed in jail.

Meanwhile another starcraft develops fusion engine trouble and is forced to land in an inhospitable area on Charron. Tommy Harker and Annie Reeves are merely teen-agers, but they are ready for a traumatic space experience. Although the Ferrosians have been given permission to land, the crews are illegally taken prisoners.

Major Swick, always loyal to his queen, becomes suspicious that General Latkich is updating the technology on Charron by stealing the starpatrols from Ferros. In spite of the queen's friendship with Ferros, others in her government do not share her desire to develop peaceful relations with other planets. Tommy Harker convinces Tritan to take him to the Red Desert. Tommy is sure that hijacked starcraft are hidden there.

After spending a miserable time in jail, Cooper and Nadia are taken out and indulged in every comfort. They both enjoy the rest, the food, the beautiful surroundings but begin to suspect that Professor Rassan is not their friend, that they are still prisoners. If General Latkish's coup is successful, war will break out between the two planets.

*Continued on page fifteen*

*Continued from page fourteen*

Nadia suggests that the Ferrosians and Iotans are being used to illegally perform genetic experiments. What is the curse of Charron? Who are these "walking dead," and where did they come from?

Professor Rassin's ambition causes him to be banished to the farthest place, but he continues to have some type of treachery available to him. "You'll all pay," are his parting words. Do we see a sequel coming?

Harrowing events in *The Curse of Charron* assure that life is first one surprise, then another for the characters and for the reader. Harker claims the rush of dangerous times far outweighs the fear. "Life would be dull without momentary brushes with death." H. J. Ralles has done it again: written an edge-of-your-seat adventure to keep you up nights.

RALLES, H. J. *THE CURSE OF CHARRON*. DALLAS: TOP PUBLICATIONS, 2008. 250 PP. \$10.95 PAPER. ISBN 10: 1929976518. ISBN 13: 978-1-929976-51-5.

## *Inventing Chloe*

JoAn Watson Martin

**A Young Girl's Painful Journey to Trust and Friendship**

Review by H. J. Ralles

*Inventing Chloe* is a heart-felt story about a young girl whose already tough life takes a dramatic turn for the worse.

JoAn Watson Martin draws the reader into Chloe's life from the first page. Fourteen-year-old Chloe Clark has just moved house and is living in a dismal apartment building. She arrives home from school to find paramedics and police waiting for her. Chloe's mother has overdosed and is dead. She watches her mother's body wheeled out on the stretcher, feels disgusted at the smell of the boozy filthy apartment and realizes her life has changed forever. She is alone. Chloe is all too aware of what comes next, and instantly the social worker, Edith Barrow is talking about juvenile hall and Child Protective Services. So Chloe invents a grandmother and directs the social worker to take her to a false address.

Remarkably Chloe's outwits the social worker, and we follow her on a painful journey first to

the YMCA, then the theater and finally the airport. There in a restroom she finds a canvas bag. Inside, Chloe discovers a baby. Now she is faced with a tough choice. For three days she has tried to avoid drawing attention to herself. Life on the run with a baby would be almost impossible. But Chloe has been abandoned, and the baby has been abandoned. Her caring instincts and her need to love and be loved take over. Ultimately her desperate run is over, and Edith Barrow is called.

Chloe is shuffled from one foster home to another. In the first she is very unhappy and is abused. In the second she is well cared for and to some extent smothered with love and over protected. We watch her grow and learn to trust as she comes in contact with characters who mostly offer sanctuary, guidance and love.

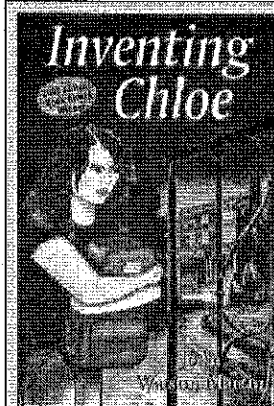
JoAn Watson Martin has written a deeply moving story that will stir emotions in adults and teens alike. It is beautifully written with excellent characterization and a fast-moving plot that will ensure you have to read to the end. But best of all there is a lesson about trust and friendship and the turns that life can take—both good and bad.

Recommended read for young adults or teens reading at Middle Grade level.

MARTIN, JOAN W. *INVENTING CHLOE*. ALPINE: WORDWRIGHT BIZ, 2009. 140 PP.

\$9.95 PAPER. ISBN-10: 193433524X. ISBN 13: 978-1-934335-24-6.

\$19.95 CLOTH. ISBN-10: 1934335258. ISBN 13: 978-1-934335-25-3.



JoAn W. Martin is a retired teacher from Baytown schools and the author of *Yankee Girl* and *Good Night, Mrs. Dinglewall, Sleep Tight!* She has published numerous articles and book reviews. She has, in particular, been a long-time contributing reviewer for *Review of Texas Books*. *Inventing Chloe* is a 2009 Abilene Book Award winner.



## Reviewers

**Mary Baswell** is a contributing editor for *PULSE*, Lamar University's student literary journal, and is a member of Sigma Tau Delta, the English National Honors Society.

**Holly Carey** is Instructor of English at Lamar University where she teaches freshman composition and sophomore literature survey classes.

**Lloyd M. Daigrepoint** is Professor of English and American Literature at Lamar University. He also serves as Co-Editor of *Lamar Journal of the Humanities*. His article "The Cult of Passion in *The Age of Innocence*" appears in a recent issue of *American Literary Realism*.

**Emma B. Hawkins** is Assistant Professor of Medieval English language and literature at Lamar University.

**Andrea Karlin** earned a Ph.D. in curriculum and reading instruction at the University of New Mexico and is associate professor of education specializing in children's literature at Lamar University.

**Sara Pace** is Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Composition at Lamar University. She teaches advanced composition, undergraduate level composition, and literature courses.

**Frances M. Ramsey** is a retired librarian from the Beaumont ISD. She received her B. S. in zoology from Kansas State University and received her library Certification from Oklahoma State University.

**Brandon Shuler** is a graduate student at the University of Texas-Pan American and a reviewer for *Texas Books in Review* and the *American Book Review*.

**Janet Turk** is Instructor of English at Lamar University. She teaches freshman composition, sophomore literature, and distance learning classes.

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