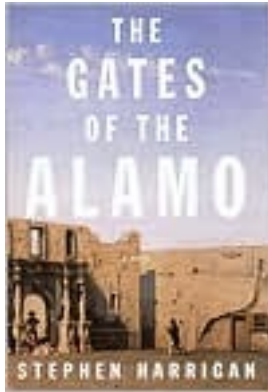

Stephen Harrigan

The Gates of the Alamo



Title: The Gates of the Alamo

Author: Stephen Harrigan

Format: Hardcover

Language: English

Pages: 592

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 0679447172

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 5.5 MB

Download: allowed

Description

A huge, riveting, deeply imagined novel about the siege and fall of the Alamo, an event that formed the consciousness of Texas and that resonates through American history. With its vibrant, unexpected characters and its richness of authentic detail, **The Gates of the Alamo** an unforgettable re-creation of a time, a place, and a heroic conflict.

The time is 1835. At the center of a canvas crowded with Mexicans and Americans, with Karankawa and Comanche Indians, with settlers of many nationalities, stand three people whose fortunes quickly become our urgent concern: Edmund McGowan, a naturalist of towering courage and intellect, whose life's work is threatened by the war against Mexico and whose character is tested by his own dangerous pride; Mary Mott, a widowed innkeeper on the Texas coast, a determined and resourceful woman; and her sixteen-year-old son, Terrell, whose first shattering experience with love leads him instead to war, and into the crucible of the Alamo.

As Edmund McGowan and Mary Mott take off in pursuit of Terrell and follow him into the fortress, the powerful but wary attraction between them deepens. And the reader is drawn with them into the harrowing days of the battle itself.

Never before has the fall of the Alamo been portrayed with such immediacy. And for the first time the story is told not just from the perspective of the American defenders but from that of the Mexican attackers as well. We follow Blas Montoya, a sergeant in an elite sharpshooter company, as he fights to keep his men alive not only in the inferno of battle but also during the long forced march north from Mexico proper to Texas. And through the eyes of the ambitious mapmaker Telesforo Villasenor, we witness the cold deliberations of General Santa Anna.

Filled with dramatic scenes, abounding in fictional and historical personalities -- among them James Bowie, David Crockett, and William Travis -- **The Gates of the Alamo** folds us in history, and through its remarkable and passionate storytelling allows us to participate at last in an American legend.

From the Hardcover edition.

Insightful reviews

Virginia Myers:

Well I like historical fiction and I saw this book on someone's list of recommended books and so I bought a used copy on Amazon.com. Boy! was I surprised when I saw how large it was - almost as big as the state of Texas! I do my reading in bed before I go to sleep - and this book is a challenge to hold and read lying down. On top of that, it is going a little slow.

I just scanned through the previous reviews and was totally amazed at number of men that wrote reviews as compared to the women. In every other book I have looked at - the women are the majority.

At the moment - I would rate it as satisfactory - not great but not horrid. I just hope the plot starts moving quicker.

Bob: An unexpected delight -- the book had unusually well-developed minor characters (including perhaps the best fictional dog ever and several horses), a truly original romance, a forthright look at military life, even completely believable ghosts. Most surprising of all was the attention paid to climate, topography, and natural history all in service of the story: "He watched the pelicans with a sudden keen intensity, thinking of them as emissaries, though whether they were creatures from the world to come or the world already past he could not discern." (p. 577)

Kevin Symmons: I have read many works on the battle of the Alamo...some intellectual and crammed with facts, others packed with adventure. Until reading Mr. Harrigan's novel I had never read anything that combined the adventure and history so completely. I will not bore the reader by repeating the story which most Americans are well acquainted with. I can only tell the reader that he has integrated the story of three fictitious individuals caught up by circumstance in the saga. Harrigan's story covers several years as we view the story in flashback from the perspective of one character who has survived and prospered into the 20th Century. As an Alamo student I can tell the readers that the author has been very true to both the history and the major characters who played so important a part in gaining Texan Independence. And...he does something else that is somewhat rare... Mr Harrigan gives us a Mexican view of the conflict in sordid and terrifying detail. It is obvious from reading the author's impressive pedigree that he has the credentials to support this long but masterful work. I give it my highest rating and recommend it to all students of both 19th Century and Texas history. Bravo!

Bbqbob2: A knockout! Picked this up in a final book place for \$1 and it used to be an outstanding buy and read. Thorough, good built and leads you thru the heritage and backstory of the Alamo. I reside inside 10 miles of San Jacinto and not discovered it used to be named for St Hyacinth or that Valero was once one other identify for the Alamo, there are Valero fuel stations all around the south. a great story, locate it, learn it and enjoy!

Shawn: this can be the 1st Stephen Harrigan novel i've got read. The Texan characters during this e-book weren't what I expected, and that was once a plus. i discovered it fascinating that the writer selected to write down the various character features we go together with the heroes of the Alamo, now not as optimistic attributes, yet as defects. instead of featuring William Travis as a idealistic patriot, he's proven to be a verbose zealot who was once reckless with the lives of others. Jim Bowie's braveness is proven as cruelty. Sam Houston's strategic maneuvers are profitable extra accurately because of the pent up rage of the Texan military than Houston's grand vision. Houston is proven as a dawdler throughout. Indeed, the writer nearly provides Santa Anna as a extra polished and delightful fellow than the grandiose and drunken Houston. either have been useless wonderful politicians. Neither have been completely within the right. in basic terms Crockett is proven as a delightful and approachable fellow, but even his veneer is

because of his years as a rustic stump speaker instead of as a real kindness. This is an efficient book. The writer turns out to think the defenders of the Alamo weren't desiring to die for Texas yet basically hoping to carry out until eventually aid arrived. Nobody can understand for sure; yet this is often most likely extra actual than the Hollywood Alamo. Had they recognized their destiny extra may have run sooner than it used to be too late. I did get a section uninterested in the junior-high point flirting among Mary and Edward. I can't think adults behaving fairly so...does he like me?...does she like me? It's also erroneous that Santa Anna knew the real advertising and marketing power of Chiclets... yet probably I'm simply exhibiting off my knowledge. Those are small complaints, however. The publication is particularly good written. The Spanish words and phrases sprinkled during the textual content have been stress-free to me and appeared good place. This ebook is superb within the method it describes how terrible the struggling with used to be in the course of the Texas Revolution. A better percent of struggling with was once performed hand at hand than both the Yank Revolution or the Civil War. Members have been clubbed, stabbed, drown and strangled to death. Even taking a deadly shot seldom led to a right away death. The sufferers have been pressured to linger until eventually infections might poison their system. It was once horrible. This used to be a very interesting read. I hugely suggest this book.

Ann Holland: amazing retelling of the conflict of the Alamo. historic fiction at its best. hugely instructed for background buffs, particularly these attracted to the background of Mexico, the United States and Texas.

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