Forgetting The Alamo Or Blood Memory

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in this literary novel set in nineteenth century texas a tejana lesbian cowgirl embarks on an adventure after the fall of the alamo micaela campos witnesses the violence against mexicans african americans and indigenous peoples after the infamous battles of the alamo and of san jacinto both in 1836 resisting an easy opposition between good versus evil and brown versus white characters the novel also features micaela s mexican anglo cousin who assists and hinders her progress micaela s travels give us a new portrayal of the american west populated by people of mixed races who are vexed by the collision of cultures and politics ultimately micaela s journey and her romance with a black american indian woman teach her that there are no easy solutions to the injustices that birthed the texas republic this novel is an intervention in queer history and fiction with its love story between two women of color in mid nineteenth century texas pérez also shows how a colonial past still haunts our nation s imagination the battles of the alamo and san jacinto offered freedom and liberty to texans but what is often erased from the story is that common people who were mexican indian and black did not necessarily benefit from the influx of so many anglo immigrants to texas the social themes and identity issues that pérez explores political climate debates over immigration and historical revision of the american west are current today pérez s sparse clean writing style is a blend of cormac mccarthy carson mccullers and annie proulx this

makes for a quick and engrossing reading experience as the narrative has a fluid quality about it alicia gaspar de alba professor and chair of chicana and chicano studies university of california los angeles and author of sor juana s second dream riveting emma pérez captures well the violence and the chaos of the southwest borderlands during the time of territorial and international disputes in the 1800s perez vividly depicts the conflicts between nations with the authority of a historian and with language belonging to a poet a fine fine read helena maria viramontes author of their dogs came with them pérez s new novel powerfully presents a revenge tale from an unusual point of view that of a displaced chicana in 1836 texas the writing is sharp and clever the dialogue is realistic lambda literary lambda award finalist filled with lush beauty harshness and horrifying brutality this is one of those books in which you just know what s going to happen at the end but you re wrong the gay lesbian review

acclaimed historians randy roberts and james olson use a wealth of archival sources including the diary of josé enrique de la peña to retell the story of the alamo for a new generation of americans in late february and early march of 1836 the mexican army commanded by general antonio lópez de santa anna besieged a small force of anglo and tejano rebels at a mission known as the alamo the defenders faced a dire predicament lacking vital information about the events unfolding beyond the mission s walls they did not have much of an understanding of santa anna or of his government in mexico city they sent out contradictory messages they received contradictory communications they moved blindly and planned in the dark and in the dark early morning of march 6 they died in that brief confusing and deadly encounter one of america s most potent symbols was born the story of the last stand at the alamo grew from a texas rallying cry to a national slogan to a phenomenon of popular culture and presidential politics yet it has been a hotly contested symbol from the first questions remain about what really happened the full story of the alamo from the weeks and months that led up to the fateful encounter to the movies and speeches that continue to remember it today is a quintessential story of america s past and a fascinating window into our collective memory historians randy roberts and james olson explain what happened from the perspective of all parties not just angle and mexican soldiers but also tejano allies and bystanders they delve anew into the mysteries of crockett s final hours and travis s famous rhetoric finally they show how preservationists television and movie producers historians and politicians have become the alamo s major interpreters walt disney john wayne and scores of journalists and cultural critics have used the alamo to contest the very meaning of america and thereby helped us all to remember the alamo

this volume in the major problems in american history series chronicles the history of mexican americans from the pre colonial era through the present

history biography and miscellany of texas and its people

from its beginning as one of the most ambitious construction projects west of the mississippi the imposing red granite lone star statehouse loomed large in texas lore the iconic landmark rests on a foundation of election rigging an unsolved murder land swaps and pre dedication blackmail it bore witness to the first meeting between lbj and lady bird as well as a bizarre resolution honoring the boston strangler mike cox digs up a quarry s worth of the capitol s untold history cataloguing everything from its ghost stories to its public art and collectible tourist kitsch

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