

13 new books with a Lone Star flavor



Image 1 out of 19

"School Board" by Mike Freedman

Elsewhere in the country, Texas suffers from generalizations as sweeping as the vast expanse of land it covers. But if you live here, you've read the fine print.

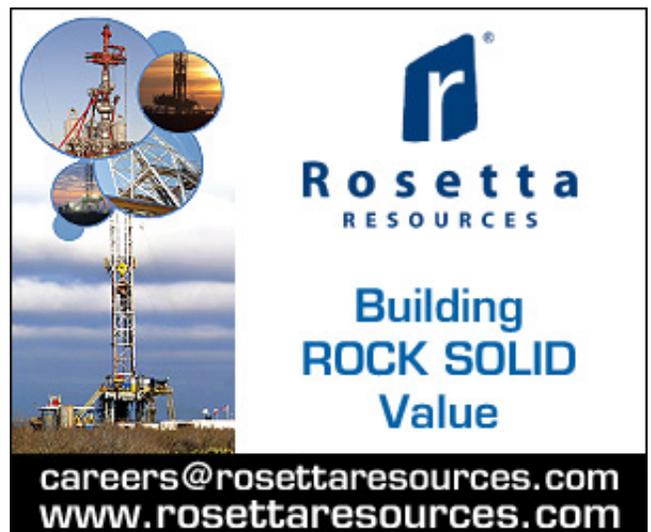
Texas is a unique blend of the South and the West. Although some of our traditions spring from cattle, cowboys and oil, new traditions are always evolving. And when it comes to food,

barbecue ain't the only religion.

Through fiction and nonfiction - lives imagined and real - some recent and upcoming books shed new light on a diverse, expansive state. These 13 titles, linked to Texas by author or topic, carry readers from the Texas frontier to 1920s Houston to 21st-century tacos and tamales.

"Funny Once: Stories" by Antonya Nelson (Bloomsbury; coming in May).

In her seventh collection of short fiction, University of Houston professor Nelson take us to Texas, Colorado, New Mexico and Kansas. By way of rich, inventive prose, Nelson offers up aging characters who are still learning and still screwing up. The author of four novels, including 2010's critically acclaimed "Bound," Nelson is a masterful storyteller and singular wordsmith whose gritty, interior tales are comic and gut-wrenching - often at the same time.



"The Last Kind Words Saloon" by Larry McMurtry (Liveright Publishing; coming in May).

A new Western from the Texas native and author of "Lonesome Dove" and other American classics, "The Last Kind Words Saloon" follows Sheriff Wyatt Earp and his close friend Doc Holliday as they travel to Tombstone, Ariz. Old West A-listers including Geronimo and Billy the Kid make guest appearances but, arguably, it's the women who run the show, including Earp's wife, Jessie, and Nellie Courtright, a telegraph operator turned newspaper reporter.

"Magnolia City" by Duncan W. Alderson (Kensington Books).

Set in Houston in the 1920s, Alderson's debut novel was inspired by photos of his mother dressed as a flapper in 1920s Texas. In the novel, a descendant of the famous Allen brothers - who founded Houston - grooms his daughter, Hetty, to marry the heir to an oil fortune. Hetty, however, has dreams of her own.

"School Board" by Mike Freedman (Broken Levee Books/Chin Music Press).

Native Houstonian Freedman, a Green Beret who is just finishing his M.B.A. at Rice University, has also completed his first novel. "School Board," a comic allegory set in Houston in 1999, follows the life of 18-year-old Tucker "Catfish" Davis, a self-proclaimed Populist and Houston school board candidate.

"Body and Bread" by Nan Cuba (Engine Books).

Sarah Pelton mourns her brother Sam, who committed suicide years ago. As her surviving brothers prepare to sell the family's tenant farm, Sarah must confront Sam's secrets and piece together her family history in East Texas. Published last year, this debut novel from San Antonio author Cuba won the PEN/Southwest Books Award for Fiction and, earlier this month, the Texas Institute of Letters Steven Turner Award for best first published fiction.

"The Early Tales of Snow and Oakham" by Philip Chavanne (Xulon Press).

In this debut novel from Hill Country author Chavanne, orphans Henry Snow and Jack Oakham set out to discover their heritage. Their adventure-filled saga crosses five continents and asks timeless questions about fathers and sons and the steep price of forgiveness.

"The Ghosts of Emily Gray" by C. Keith Carpenter (Hollow Horse Publishing).

In this paranormal story by Dickinson writer Carpenter, Erin is the surviving identical twin of Emily, who was killed exactly one year before Carpenter's story begins. Multiple apparitions of the dead teen haunt the family while Erin tries to cope with the guilt of Emily's death.

"Lens on the Texas Frontier" by Lawrence Jones III (Texas A&M University Press).

In this glossy, coffee-table book, Jones showcases some of the photographs from the collection that bears his name at the DeGolyer Library of Southern Methodist University. Included are photos of the famous and the ordinary, of women and children, of city scenes and country scenes, of men in military uniform and American Indians on horseback. From tintypes to stereographs to large-format mounted photos, this collection of rare images stretches from the 1840s to 1900.

"Many Rivers to Cross" by Thomas Zigal (Texas Christian University Press).

Published in 2013, Zigal's novel just won the Texas Institute of Letters' Jesse Jones Award for Fiction. Born in Galveston and raised in Texas City, Zigal writes about a Vietnam veteran who guides a homemade boat through the fetid waters of post-Katrina New Orleans in search of his stranded daughter and two grandchildren.

"The Texas Food Bible: From Legendary Dishes to New Classics" by Dean Fearing (Grand Central Life & Style).

Although Fearing hails from Kentucky and was trained in the classic French tradition, nearly four decades in Texas have given him a comprehensive education in Lone Star cuisine. From sauces and salsas, to tacos and tamales, to chili and bacon-jalapeño biscuits, the collected recipes range from classic to cutting edge.

"Recollections of a Tejano Life: Antonio Menchaca in Texas History," edited by Timothy Matovia and Jesús F. de la Teja (University of Texas Press).

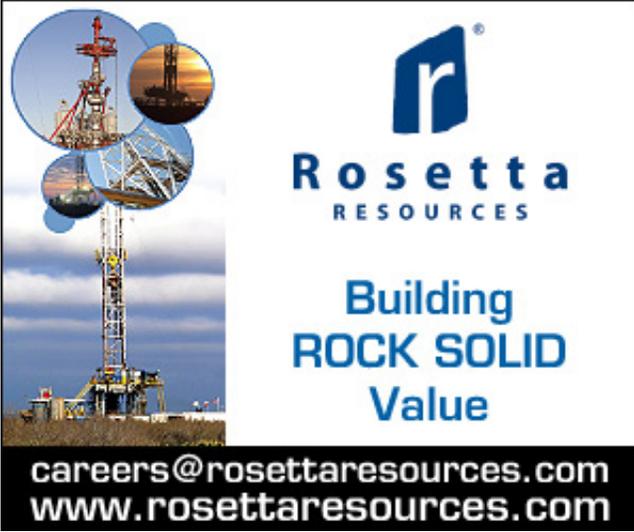
Billed as the first complete, annotated publication of the reminiscences of San Antonio native and Battle of San Jacinto veteran José Antonio Menchaca, this book paints a portrait of the lives of Tejanos during a critical point in Texas history. This first-person account includes Menchaca's remembrances of Davy Crockett, Sam Houston, Antonio López de Santa Anna, and others.

"River Royals Master the Mississippi" by Katie Clark and Sarah Wynne, illustrated by Penny Weber (Bright Sky Press).

From Houston authors Clark and Wynne comes a trip down the Mississippi via the imagination of a young girl named Eliza Jane. In this picture book for younger readers, Eliza Jane imagines tubing with her brother from Lake Itasca in Minnesota, where the Mississippi River begins, to New Orleans, near where the mighty river empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

"The Promise" by Ann Weisgarber (Skyhorse Publishing).

In the second novel from local author Weisgarber, 1900 Galveston takes center stage. A young pianist fleeing a scandal travels to the island after agreeing to marry a recently widowed childhood friend. But Catherine and Oscar have old secrets to face and new problems in the form of Oscar's grieving child and his devoted housekeeper. On top of that, the worst storm in a generation is about to descend.



The advertisement features a large image of an offshore oil rig on the left. Three circular inset images are overlaid on the rig: the top one shows a sunset over the rig, the middle one shows a close-up of the rig's structure, and the bottom one shows a view from the rig looking out at the sea. To the right of the rig is the Rosetta Resources logo, which consists of a stylized blue 'r' with a registered trademark symbol, followed by the word 'Rosetta' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font and 'RESOURCES' in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font below it. Below the logo is the slogan 'Building ROCK SOLID Value' in blue, with 'ROCK SOLID' in all caps and 'Building' and 'Value' in title case. At the bottom of the advertisement, on a black background, are the email address 'careers@rosettaresources.com' and the website 'www.rosettaresources.com' in white text.

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