

CROSSLEY, DAC. *Guns Across the Rio. A Texas Ranger in Old Mexico*. BookSurge, trade paperback, 265 pps. ISBN 978-1-4196-6913-2.

Nacho Ybarra is a proud, badge-toting Texas Ranger, but it's tough being a Mexican American when Pancho Villa is making war along the border. He's watched with open distrust by most of his fellow Rangers. Compounding his problems, Nacho receives word that his daughter's husband is mixed up in the action and he "takes leave" to help her out. After seeing to her needs, he's almost clear of the territory when some of Villa's soldiers capture him, compelling him to work for the Mexican revolution. When he stumbles upon a German agent bent on stirring up trouble between the U.S. and Mexico, he's forced to ride a narrow trail down the middle of his two countries.

Meanwhile, Ybarra's Texas Ranger friends, Whitey Wilson and Red Reagan, are given the dangerous job of protecting the Rio Grande border crossing. Unaware of Nacho's unauthorized leave, they fear he's been killed. This provides another worry for Ybarra, since he doesn't want his friends to think he's a deserter.

Family and ethnic ties mix with a conflict of loyalties to make *Guns Across the Rio* an action-packed tale. Ybarra is an unlikely hero who ties up the ends in the story in a slick and satisfactory fashion.

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