

SUMMER BOOKS '09

FOR THE SUMMER, A RAFT OF INTERESTING TALES,
FROM LA LUNA TO THE LUNAR SURFACE.

“Due to their enormity, there are crimes that border on the sublime. Taking control of Texas qualifies for this honor,” Sen. Henry Clay said during the U.S. invasion of Mexico City in 1847.

Mexican author Ignacio Solares re-creates the feelings of the city’s residents during the war in his novel **‘Yankee Invasion’** (Scarletta Press, \$14.95). A troubled romance and an invaded country are the memories of narrator Abelardo’s youth.

While the Americans were the enemy who took half of Mexico’s territory, Solares shows that the young nation had other enemies at home: a corrupt army, a clash between conservatives and liberals, and a weak national identity. But what really defeated the Mexicans was Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna’s inability to govern the nation’s vast territory.

During the invasion, the inhabitants of Mexico City, without the Mexican armed forces, fought fiercely against the invaders. Some were engulfed with fanaticism to confront any American on Mexican soil, while others helped wounded U.S. soldiers. And then there were those who simply took refuge in their vacation homes. After the war, only ghosts survived in Abelardo’s memory.

— Tania Lara

