



Wild Steps of Heaven

By Victor Villasenor

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In his critically acclaimed bestseller *Rain of Gold*, Victor Villase-or brought his mother's family vividly to life. In *Wild Steps Of Heaven*, he turns to his father's family, the Villase-ors. Against a vivid backdrop of love and war, magic and heroism, the author breathes life into his father's people--and in particular, the Villase-or women*Margarita, the indomitable matriarch who was swept away by Don Juan Jesus Villase-or on the eve of the Mexican revolution*their beautiful daughters, who find strength and endurance in their mother's faith, and searing passion amidst the turmoil of war. But it is little Juan, the youngest son, through whose eyes this tumultuous saga unfolds. Juan would learn from his brother Jose, a hero of the revolution, how to be a man; and from his beloved mother, how to live and love con gusto y amor.

A story of madness and miracles, rage and redemption, In *Wild Steps Of Heaven* creates a riveting portrait of an extraordinary family and the country whose earth gave them roots.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this second volume of Villasenor's (Rain of Gold) Mexican trilogy, he relates the history of his father's family in the highlands of the western Mexican state of Jalisco in the early 20th century. His father was descended from a noble-blooded Spaniard and an Indian woman whose conflicting cultures epitomize those of the Mexican nation. Indeed, says Villasenor, "the story of my father's people was filled with so much rage and violence and yet this incredible faith in God.... [It] was the story of all Mexico, and the story of Mexico was the story of the last five hundred years of European dominance all over our globe." Drawing on his father's stories and those of other members of his extended family, the author reconstructs their loves, lusts, madness, deaths, births, hunger, massacres, joys and heroism in a folkloric tale reminiscent of the magical realism of Gabriel Garcia Marquez. His characters and the events they live through are so outrageous that familiar stereotypes dissolve in their wake and magnetic individuals come to life, taking both the good and the bad as givens, supported by fierce love of the earth, their families, God and, above all, la vida. Author tour.

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From Library Journal

Villasenor continues his account of his Mexican American family history in this follow-up to the best-selling Rain of Gold (LJ 7/91).

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From [Booklist](#)

Villasenor's previous nonfiction book, the three-volume epic *Rain of Gold*, met wide critical acclaim. A monumental story following a family from prerevolutionary Mexico to California, the trilogy provided North Americans with a sweepingly eloquent, earthy portrait of three generations of his mother's family. This time, Villasenor documents his father's history, beginning before the revolution of 1910, "a time of gods, a time of serpents, and, yes, a time of love." Intended as a prequel, the new book is an entrancing but stylistically rough though accurate account of what it means to live in Los Altos de Jalisco, where tequila and myth are the order of the day. The book is profound and funny, an accessible, old-fashioned book: simply, a tightly wrought story about family, history, betrayal, and the power of women to alleviate the destruction caused by family patriarchies. *Greg Burkman*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jerry Gavin:

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Adam Rucks:

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Don Gonzales:

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Jerald Higgins:

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