



***Sonora Moonlight*, a whodunit with a difference:**

1761: Ignaz (Ygnacio) Pfefferkorn, Jesuit Missionary, arrives at Guevavi Mission in the Sonora Desert dying of malaria. His life is saved by an Indian medicine man, Jevho, and his beautiful half-Pima, half-Irish nurse-assistant, Patricia O'Meara. The murder of a local settler by beheading and crucifixion is blamed on the Indians, and Father Ygnacio tries to prove his converts innocent, risking his life repeatedly. He owes his life to Jevho and yet must struggle against the powerful medicine man for the Indians' allegiance. He is disturbingly drawn to Patricia and struggles with himself, too, as he narrows the circle of suspects.

- **Before cowboys there were Indians and Missionaries.** *Sonora Moonlight* spares no detail of the grueling, unrelenting existence of both these Southwest cultures.
- The complex relations, interdependencies, and conflicts of a small group of people distill that lifestyle to its essence for the reader.
- Apache and Pima history blazes across the pages as Fr. Ygnacio works tirelessly to save his converts from blame and revenge for the crime committed against a white man.
- Fr. Ygnacio, both a priest and a detective, but more importantly a deeply honest man, works to understand his faith and himself, while confronted by a radically alien culture.
- Jevho: the powerful medicine man's mystery and his native culture oppose European Christianity and attract Ygnacio. He labors against these forces while trying to succeed as a missionary.
- Patricia O'Meara, a "half-breed," is conflicted between cultures and religions. She loves both Ygnacio and Jevho. Which culture and which man will she follow?
- The Jesuit hierarchy brings additional conflict to bear on Fr. Ygnacio. They reject his sensitivity to the native religion, his flexibility and willingness to adapt a number of native practices to his liturgy.
- Using both literary and visual research, I have crafted a completely accurate and vivid setting for *Sonora Moonlight*. The book places you directly in the Sonora Desert: its climate, its landscape, its architecture (both indigenous and early settler), and its cultures.
- What were their living conditions? What they ate, how they harvested it (both plant and animal), how they cooked it, and their practice of herbal medicine all spring to life in *Sonora Moonlight*.
- *Sonora Moonlight* is a completely researched historical mystery. An historical appendix tells the reader what is real and what is fiction, and even includes several pages of recipes for the desert foods of that period.

My readers experience "full immersion" in times and cultures long forgotten. As a child in New Mexico ranching country, I have experienced life without electricity or plumbing, have lived in ranch houses resembling those described in the book, have explored desert valleys and mountains hundreds of miles from the nearest town on foot and horseback. I have lived the conditions described in this book—with the exception of the Apache raids. **Come travel with me back in time.**

Cover artwork by Ardy M. Scott

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Sonora Moonlight **By Florence Byham Weinberg**

1761. The background: Jesuit missionaries struggle to convert and educate native populations in Sonora, northwest New Spain (Mexico). Fr. Ygnacio Pfefferkorn faces resistance by powerful medicine man Jevho. A grisly murder is blamed on "Indians"; Fr. Ygnacio must track the murderer to save them. Patricia, half-Irish, half Indian, loves both the priest and Jevho and must choose which path to follow.

Sonora Moonlight is a brilliant novel. This fascinating work of history and imagination probes important facets of the Spanish Conquest of the Americas in its spiritual and its practical dimensions.

—Ralph Freedman, author of *Herman Hesse: Pilgrim of Crisis* and *Life of a Poet: Rainer Maria Rilke*.

For those who love historical fiction, this is a must-read. Weinberg does not describe the past; she recreates it with vivid details about plant and animal life, missionaries and pioneers, and Native American medicine.

—Diana Lopez, author of *Sophia's Saints* and *Confetti Girl*.

Comments:

- *Sonora Moonlight* brings to life historically credible events that could have happened before Anglos from the east began to settle in the Southwest.
- The book contains conflicts on several levels that bring on crises between natives and settlers, within native factions, and within the settler group.
- Love, longing, and homesickness play a role in the protagonists' relations with each other, making this book a believable record of human emotional interaction.

Author Bio

Before settling in San Antonio, Texas, she traveled extensively with her family during World War II. With her husband, Kurt Weinberg, she worked and traveled in Canada, Germany, France, and Spain. After earning her PhD, she taught for twenty-two years at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, N.Y., and for ten at Trinity University in San Antonio. She is now a full-time novelist.

Sonora Moonlight is available through your favorite bookstore and online booksellers. Copies can be pe-ordered from FAP Books, Inc., PO Box 540, Gainesville, FL 32602-0540, toll-free 888-511-5125, Baker & Taylor, Ingram or the publisher, Twilight Times Books, P.O. Box 3340, Kingsport, TN 37664 and also via the Internet

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Sonora Moonlight Title Data

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SUBMIT ONE TITLE DATA FORM FOR EACH BOOK – TYPED ONLY

Publisher: Twilight Times Books

Complete Title: Sonora Moonlight

Complete Subtitle (if any): none Series Volume

Edition: First

Author (Use Nom de Plume if Applicable): Florence Byham Weinberg

Author's Hometown: San Antonio, TX

Author's Biography (60 words max):

A native of Alamogordo, NM, Florence traveled extensively with her family during World War II. Travels continued after marriage to scholar-critic Kurt Weinberg in Canada, France, Spain and Germany. After earning her PhD, she taught for twenty-two years at St. John Fisher College, Rochester, NY, and ten at Trinity University, San Antonio. She continues to travel and write, enjoying riding, hiking, swimming, and good conversation.

ISBN (if assigned): 1-60619-114-4

Previous Edition ISBN (if any):

Publication date (mm/yyyy): December 15, 2008

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Number of Pages: 250

Size (in inches): 8 ½ x 5 ½

Synopsis of Book (175 words max):

Sonora, 1761-62: Father Ygnacio Pfefferkorn, SJ, suffering from acute malaria, is transferred to a new mission, Guevavi in present-day Arizona. Healed by a Pima medicine man: Jevho, and his half-Pima, half-Irish nurse-assistant Patricia O'Meara, he becomes obsessed with converting Jevho to Christianity. A grisly murder by beheading and crucifixion is discovered near the mission, and Ygnacio sets about solving the crime, fearing his mission Indians will be blamed. Suspects abound in the small Irish ranching community and among Jevho's people. Ygnacio risks his life in pursuit of the murderer, whom he finally apprehends. Patricia, in love with both the priest and Jevho, must choose between cultures, native or European. Meanwhile, Ygnacio builds up the mission but fails to recognize Jevho's influence drawing the people back to their native practices. In the end, the priest is removed from his post, suspected of being too close to

Jevho and of committing heresy in accepting native practices into his liturgy, but he will be reassigned to another mission, where he will again weave together the native and European cultures.

Bulleted Points (25 words max each):

- *Sonora Moonlight* brings to life historically credible events that could have happened before Anglos from the east began to settle in the Southwest.
- The book contains conflicts on several levels that bring on crises between natives and settlers, within native factions, and within the settler group.
- Love, longing, and homesickness play a role in the protagonists' relations with each other, making this book a believable record of human emotional interaction.

Marketing Points (Budget & Plan) (25 words max): National and local media—print, broadcast and electronic. Media interviews, library and bookstore appearances and signings.

- I plan to hire a publicist to assist with various media appointments, interviews, etc.
- I plan to set up interviews with local TV and radio stations, and to solicit a review from *The San Antonio Express-News*.
- I will set up talks and signings about my work at the nearby towns, wherever there is a local independent bookstore or a library with a book club.
- I will speak and sign books in Carlsbad, NM, in El Paso, Las Cruces, Santa Fe, Denver, Tucson, Phoenix, and wherever I can arrange an appearance.
- I will make a more concentrated effort to reach San Antonio writers' groups and library branches. Central organization is missing in SA, but my work so far has revealed many small interested groups.
- Budget for all this—whatever it takes.

Is This a New Title? Yes xx No ___ If Yes, Describe the book in 50 words

1761. The background: Jesuit missionaries struggle to convert and educate native populations in Sonora, northwest New Spain (Mexico). Fr. Ygnacio Pfefferkorn faces resistance by powerful medicine man Jevho. A grisly murder is blamed on "Indians"; Fr. Ygnacio must track the murderer to save them. Patricia, half-Irish, half Indian, loves both the priest and Jevho and must choose which path to follow.