



LASALLE'S GHOST

A NOVEL BY MILES ARCENEUX

PRESS

GALVESTON COUNTY THE DAILY NEWS 'LA SALLE'S GHOST' CAPTURES GRITTY FEEL OF COASTAL TEXAS

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In the late 1680s, René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle attempted to establish a colony at the mouth of the Mississippi River. He missed the Mississippi, ended up in Texas and was eventually killed by other members of his expedition.

More than 300 years later, another Frenchman, Julien Dufay, seeks La Salle's settlement. Tossed overboard from an offshore crew boat, he swims to Charlie Sweetwater's boat. This opens "La Salle's Ghost," a new thriller by Miles Arceneaux.

Charlie Sweetwater is a shrimper and an inventor. He did not intend to follow his father's footsteps as a commercial shrimper. He got a degree in philosophy from the University of Texas-Austin, a subject as far removed from shrimping as Charlie could devise.

He drifted back to shrimping after his brother's death, inventing and selling improved turtle-excluder devices. These inventions earned enough for Sweetwater to achieve independence.

Dufay turns out to be one owner and a board member of a mid-sized oil company. His real interest lies in the arts. The recent discovery of La Salle's ship La Belle has fixated Dufay on the idea of excavating the La Salle's settlement.

Dufay's passion soon sweeps Charlie into helping Dufay's efforts. Charlie's interest is further fueled by indirect involvement in the La Belle project. Charlie's

independence allows Charlie to develop a relationship with Dufay without becoming overawed or beholden to Dufay. Charlie serves as a check on Dufay's obsessive enthusiasms.

This proves invaluable. Charlie soon discovers disquieting things about the expedition. A separate agenda, hidden even from Dufay, seems behind getting Dufay to make the dig. Then people start dying.

What follows is a tightly plotted adventure. Charlie pulls away layers of deceit and misdirection to uncover the secrets hidden beneath the project—and threats to his eccentric friend's life.

Set on the Texas Gulf Coast, between Matagorda Island and Aransas Bay during the 1990s, "La Salle's Ghost" captures the gritty feel of coastal Texas. Miles Arceneaux is the joint effort of three Texas-based authors: Brent Douglas, John T. Davis and James R. Dennis. They prove to have an ear for the rhythm of the Texas coast.

This is their second collaboration as Miles Arceneaux, and the second novel featuring Charlie Sweetwater, a sequel to "Thin Slice of Life." You might as well get that one, too, and read it first. You will want to anyway, because one Miles Arceneaux story leaves you wanting another one.

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