

Crafting a Swedenborgian Literary Aesthetic:

Lessons Gleaned and Applied to my Fiction

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Signet Classics



A PORTRAIT
OF THE ARTIST
AS A YOUNG MAN

JAMES JOYCE

With a New Introduction by Langdon Hammer

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SAUL
BELLOW

More
A Novel Die of
Heartbreak

Attribution

With :

- “. . . And then flew hither and thither shapeless thoughts from Swedenborg on the correspondence of birds to things of the intellect.”

Without:

- “. . . And then flew hither and thither shapeless thoughts on the correspondence of birds to things of the intellect.

a Writer's Working
Swedenborgian Literary Aesthetic

• **1. References to Swedenborg by name, direct quotation, and/or paraphrase**

• **2. Articulation of Swedenborgian concepts without citing SW**

Depiction via Fiction-Writing Modes

- **Narrative**
- **Setting**
- **Dialogue**
- **Description**
- **Recollection**
- **Introspection**
- **etc.**

WORLD'S  CLASSICS



ELIZABETH BARRETT
BROWNING

AURORA LEIGH



Williams Dean Howells: Dean of American Letters



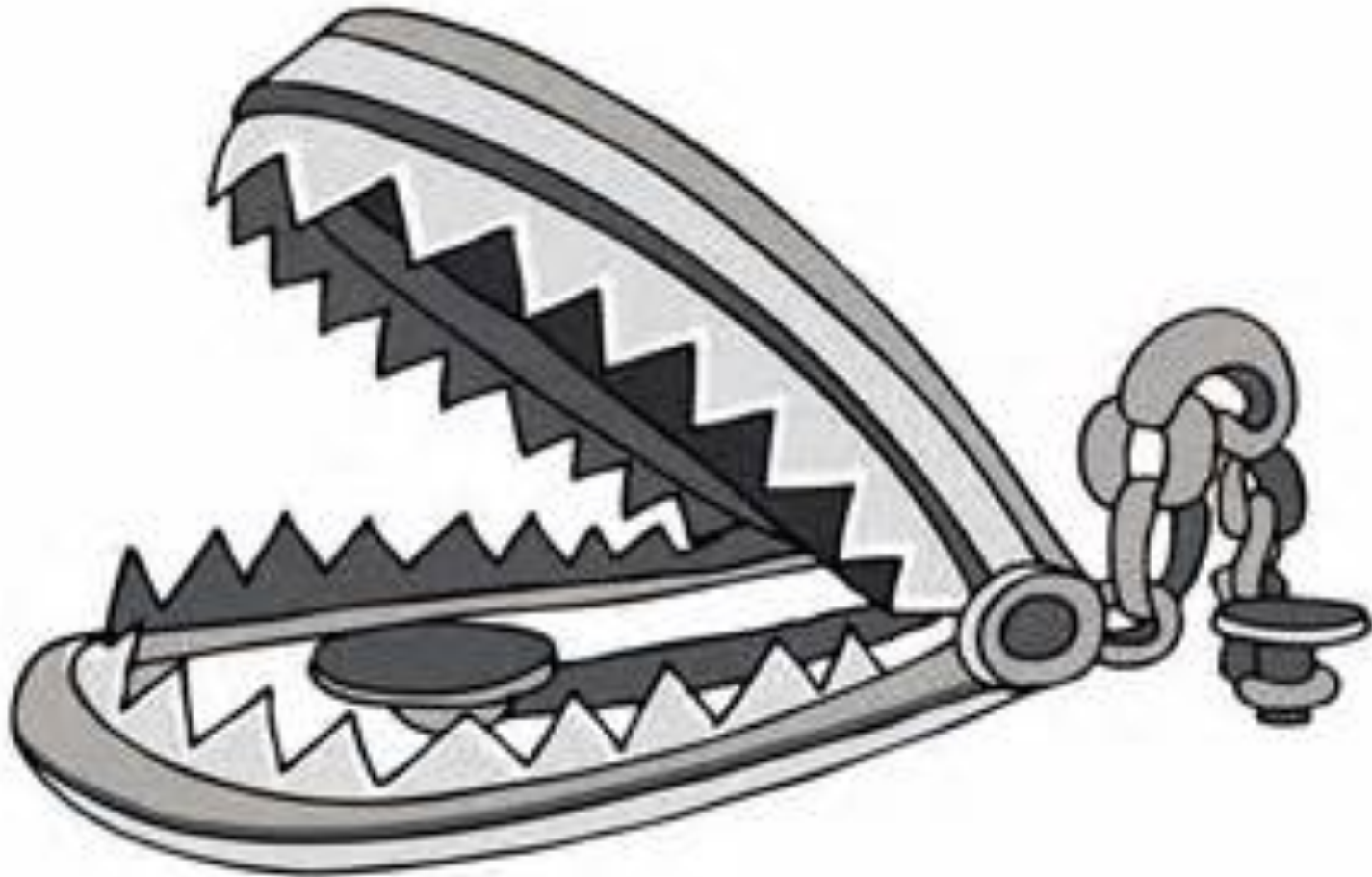
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**THE RISE OF
SILAS LAPHAM**



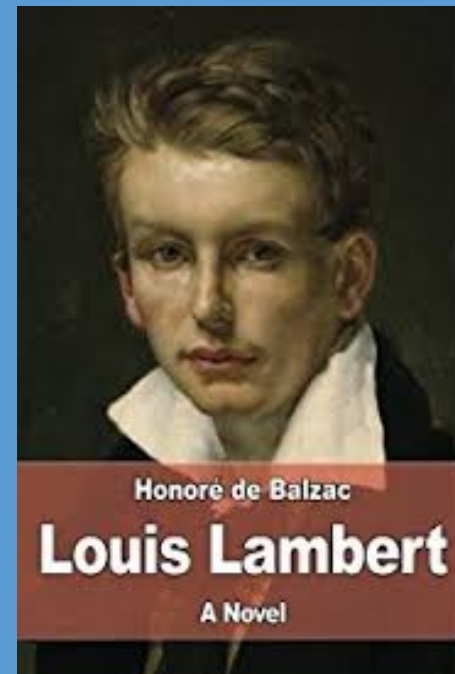
**William Dean
Howells**

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The Didactic Trap

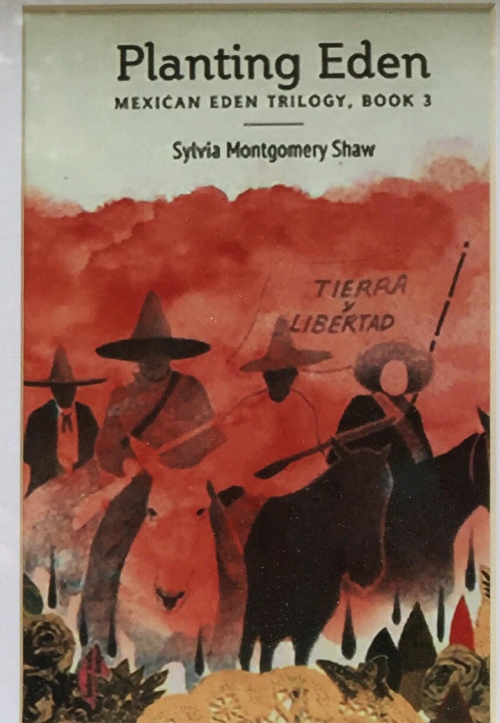
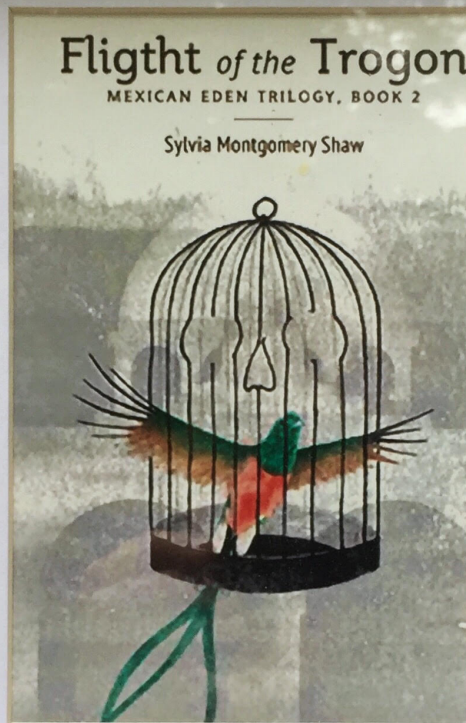
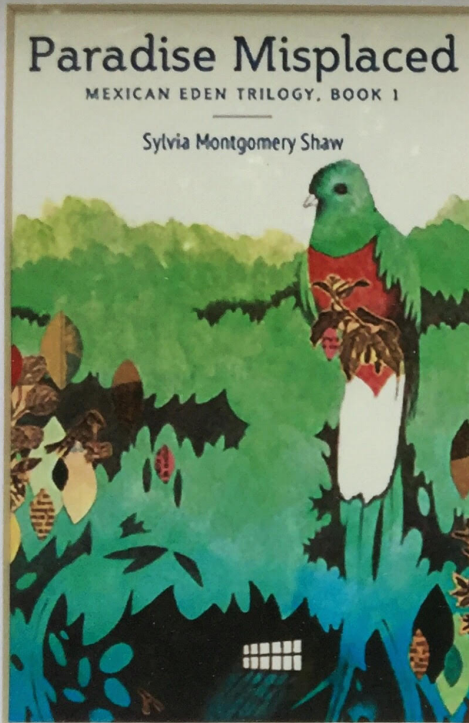


Honore de Balzac

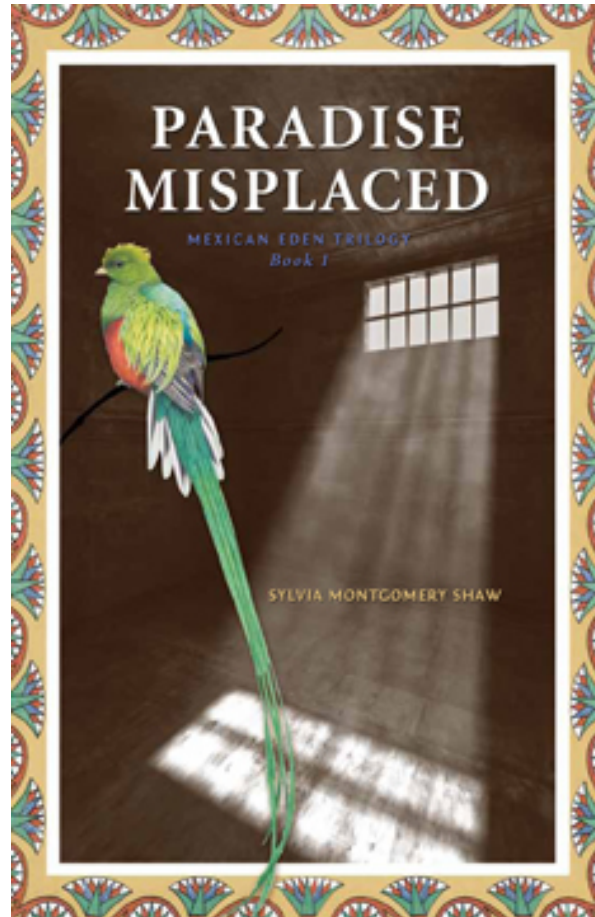




Mexican Eden Trilogy



Mexican Eden Trilogy: Book I



Central Character in
Paradise Misplaced:

Captain Benjamin Nyman

Political Backdrop

**The Porfiriato
and
The Mexican Revolution
1910-1920**

Don Porfirio Diaz



el Porfiriato

1876-1911





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Key Leaders of the Mexican Revolution



Social Settings of
Book I

A Mexican Hacienda
Mexico City (1910-1912)
and

The Federal Penitentiary of Mexico City

Haciendas



Mexican Haciendas



San Angel Inn





Central Concern in the first novel:

**Reformation
And
Spiritual Regeneration**

**If the skies did not storm,
causing unlike elements to scatter,
the air would never clear, destructive forces
would amass and wreak havoc.**

Swedenborg

**Embody me.
Flare up like flame
And make big shadows I can move in.
Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.
Just keep going. No feeling is final.
Don't let yourself lose me.**

Rainer Maria Rilke

Paradise Misplaced

**A love story
with dark overtones:
storms followed by bright skies**

El Templo Mayor: Also known as the twin temples



Human Sacrifices



The Spanish Conquest





Mansion along Reforma Avenue



The Second Novel

FLIGHT of the TROGON

MEXICAN EDEN TRILOGY, BOOK 2

Sylvia Montgomery Shaw



Central Character

Isabel Brentt de Nyman

Geographical setting: Mexico City & Cuernavaca



“In the spiritual world where we all arrive after death, no one asks what our faith has been or what our beliefs have been, only what our life has been, whether we are one kind of person or another.”

Divine Providence No. 101:3

Doña Manuela

Formidable autocrat
in the
San Serafin Hacienda

Who has the moral right to
the San Serafin plantation?

Doña Manuela?

Isabel?



The Era





La Catrina



“To enable us to live forever, what is mortal is taken from us. That mortal part is our material body which is taken from us by death. This lays bare what is immortal about us, which is our mind, and we then become spirits in human form.”

Divine Providence, No 324 [3]

The Problem of Evil



Layers to Mexico City

**The Colonial Period
(1521 – 1821)**



Tenochtitlan: Aztec Capital



Lake Texcoco



The Federal Army, Sept. 16, 1910



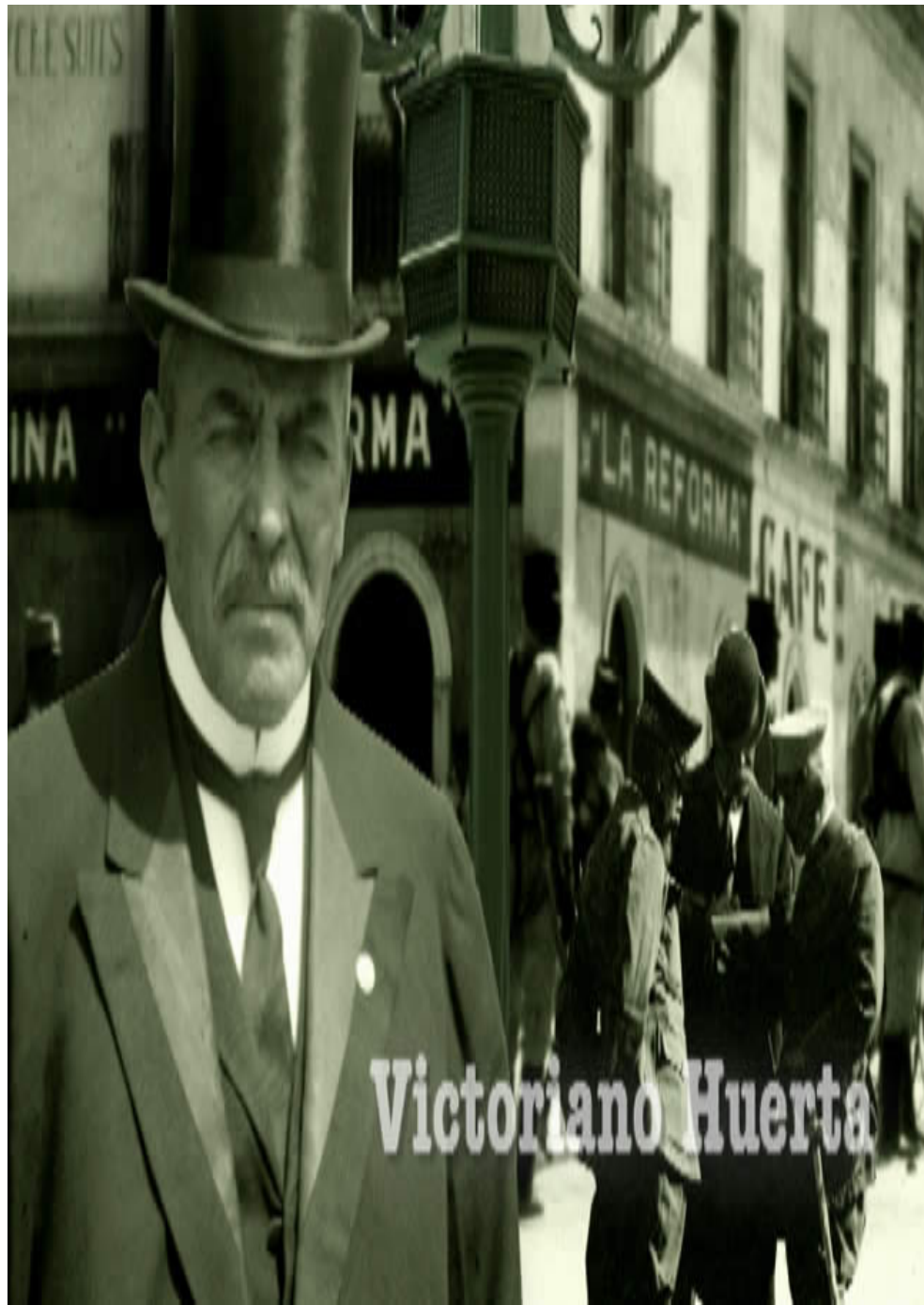


The Coup of 1913: La Decena Tragica



ZAPATA





Victoriano Huerta