

Name _____

Date _____

All the Wonders

Soon after Navi became engaged to Roberto, she began learning about his seemingly magical origins.

She had heard many stories of Roberto's birth city of Guanajuato, and they had all captivated her. She was fascinated by the many exotic tales he told her about the region. At one time, this colonial city was the source of two-thirds of the world's silver.

"Our family goes to a beautiful church in Guanajuato," Roberto had told her while they courted in the United States. "It is said that silver dust was mixed into the cement building blocks and that is why the church sparkles."

Navi had been enthralled by the tale. Indeed, Roberto always told such wonderful stories. She could not wait to see the city and meet all of Roberto's family. Navi was excited; she knew that the trip was sure to be inspirational.

While Roberto had imparted to Navi all the wonders of his beautiful city, it had not occurred to him to mention any dangers. After all, they were young and they were in love--they lived only in the moment.

Navi was speechless when she saw the Oratorio de San Felipe. "It really does sparkle!" she exclaimed. Navi kissed Roberto on the cheek. "I'll meet you outside," she said, leaving the church.

She pulled her sketchpad and pencils from her bag and went to sit against one of the glorious palm trees outside the church. She began sketching the colossal cupola, which extended mightily, towering three stories above the nave.

Suddenly, a sharp pain took hold of her left shoulder. It felt like an electrical shock. The pain began to pervade the rest of her body.

She had been stung by a scorpion!

The last thing Navi remembered was Roberto kneeling by her side. She woke up a day later with him holding her hand and talking to her in a soft voice. "In Mexico," he said, "scorpions are ubiquitous.

They are everywhere. And they love palm trees," he said, rubbing her hand with tears of relief in his eyes. "There are more scorpion deaths here than in any other place in the world. I should have mentioned that before."

