

Contents

Preface	ix
Prologue	i
<i>Chapter 1</i>	
1823–54: “Into Her World”—Petra’s Story	7
<i>Chapter 2</i>	
1823–54: “Into Her World”—Mifflin’s Story	24
<i>Chapter 3</i>	
1855–60: Forging a Life in Brownsville	46
<i>Chapter 4</i>	
1860–62: War Clouds Gather	76
<i>Chapter 5</i>	
1863: War Closes in on the Rio Grande Valley	98
<i>Chapter 6</i>	
1864–65: Chaos along the Rio Grande	117
<i>Chapter 7</i>	
1866: Home Again	141
<i>Chapter 8</i>	
1867–68: “Woe to Brownsville! Woe to Matamoros!”	153
<i>Chapter 9</i>	
1869–71: “¿Quién Viene?”	171
<i>Chapter 10</i>	
1872–74: One Foot in Brownsville, One in the Wild Horse Desert	189

<i>Chapter 11</i>	
1873: Politics, Bandits, and Hard Economic Times	199
<i>Chapter 12</i>	
1874: Railroads and Cattle Drives	215
<i>Chapter 13</i>	
1875: Leander McNelly and the Texas Rangers	223
<i>Chapter 14</i>	
1876: The Apple of His Father's Eye	236
<i>Chapter 15</i>	
1877–78: “A Fiend in Human Form”	245
<i>Chapter 16</i>	
1879–80: Last Days at Los Laureles—The Laurel Leaf Ranch	263
<i>Chapter 17</i>	
1881: To the Body of Christ—Corpus Christi	272
<i>Chapter 18</i>	
1882: La Parra—The Grapevine Ranch	280
<i>Chapter 19</i>	
1883: They Were Always There for One Another	289
<i>Chapter 20</i>	
1884: Farewell to Santiago	305
<i>Chapter 21</i>	
1885: Goodbye to Petrita	336
Epilogue	348
Notes	359
Bibliography	405
Index	417