



8 SIBLINGS, 1 WAR

8 HERMANOS, 1 GUERRA

FIRST ASSASSINATION
THAT SPARKED
SPANISH CIVIL WAR

COMMUNISTS
FASCISTS
SOCIALISTS

TORTURE
[Teniente Castillo]
MURDER
MILITARY COUP E'TAT
PREMATURE DEATHS

THE 2ND SPANISH REPUBLIC
WORLD WAR II

FREEMASONS
MINERS' REVOLT

LOVE STORY
Governor of Málaga

SOVIET MIXED BRIGADE LIBERATING
BERLIN FROM THE NAZIS

REFUGES
SPIES
EXILED IN MEXICO
CONCENTRATION CAMPS
SOLDIERS
HAVES VS. HAVE NOTS
SOVIET UNION
1930S-1960S & 1992

ERNEST HEMINGWAY



This epic drama based on true events and real historical figures follows the lives of eight remarkable siblings throughout the turbulent times of the early 20th century, spanning the 1930s including the Spanish Civil War, World War II and into the Cold War.

In 1992, our narrator, Atocha, is one of the last surviving siblings of her family, but through the vehicle of storytelling, she passes on family stories of her youth and her siblings' achievements and struggles to her grandson, Luis, who is visiting from the US during a summer trip to Spain. With the summer Olympics as a backdrop, we now experience a different, more modern Spain that recently ended its 36 year dictatorship and brought in a period of burgeoning growth and social, political and cultural development.

One of Atocha's brothers, Jose del Castillo also known as "Teniente (Lieutenant) Castillo" was assassinated on July 12th, 1936. His murder sparked a series of events that led to the Spanish Civil War which most historians would argue was the first battle of World War II. Jose del Castillo's contributions to world history were deliberately left out of the textbooks because as Winston Churchill famously put it, "history is written by the victors."

Essentially, this is a story of a family that endured hardships mostly for standing up for their beliefs whether it be on the left or right and whose lives reflected the larger picture of the times depicting the realities of conflicts between brother against brother at a familial and societal scale, serving as a cautionary tale as the themes, and reasons for conflict remain relevant and the same to this day.

[the project]

Based on true events and real
historical figures

[creator's statement]

This story is personal to me since our protagonist, Atocha, is my grandmother and the character Luis is based on me. Growing up in the US, I had no extended family as they were all in Spain but I knew there was a richness in history there which always attracted me to never lose touch with my roots.

My father had told my sisters and I stories of his uncle, Jose del Castillo which both enthralled and saddened me. Later on in adulthood, through research and continual chats with my aunt Mari who is the family historian, I learned of the other 6 siblings my grandmother had and their extraordinarily brave and harrowing lives.

Having graduated with a B.A. in Theater and working in film and tv for over 20 years now, I am always attracted to the story, the characters and the world that envelops them but it wasn't until the recent polarization and radicalization of the political left and right in the western world, that I saw enough parallels between the 1930s and the present to ignite a fire in me to cause the creation of this wonderful project. This series is relevant today because if we're not careful history will repeat itself. Being a history buff, I'm aware that wars are never easily divided between good and evil. I believe conflict naturally emerges from competing interests and values but in armed conflicts, *both* warring sides tend to commit horrendous atrocities.

I believe my grandmother and her siblings' stories should be told to the world not only so that their interrupted and shortened lives get some sort of justice but so that we can also learn from our past to not repeat it. It is my mission to remain as unbiased and apolitical as possible as this story is about a family and the war, politics and other historical themes are backdrops to their own personal lives and how love unites and always prevails. --- Luis Sanchez-Cañete



[the story]

We start out in 1992, with Puri (39) and her son Luis (14) arriving to Madrid after a decade of living in the US. On the way to Castilla in northern Spain, where Puri's family is from, she decides to stop in on Luis's paternal grandmother, Atocha (86) so Luis can re-connect with her now that he's all grown up. While at Atocha's flat, Luis is inspired to learn more about all the spectacular old photographs of Atocha's siblings strewn about the living room. Starting with her brother Jose, and through the use of flashbacks, we are catapulted into the past, starting in the 1930s, as Atocha narrates.



Lieutenant Jose del Castillo and Officer Fernando Condés were made fast friends during the Rif War in 1925 Morocco. The first flashback scene starts with the Miners' Revolt of 1934 where both Jose and Fernando were dispatched to disperse the riot. Historians arguably state that the real battle of the Spanish Civil War started with the miners revolting and striking in Asturias in 1934, two years before the official start of Franco's coup d'état while he waited for a reason to rise up and his troops were stationed in the Spanish territories in Morocco. Feeling that the miners might be justified in their strike, Jose del Castillo also known historically as Teniente "*Lieutenant*" Castillo, fails to follow orders to put down the insurrection which leads to him being jailed for 1 year along with his friend Fernando Condés and others in their battalion. One year later, now in 1935 Jose and company are released and the left and centre left are projected to win in the February 1936 elections. Jose is now on the up and up and has joined the Assault Guard who's purpose is to control protests and put down riots.

Prison has hardened Jose and emboldened his values and ideology. Although military men are not allowed to join political groups, he's now joined the UMRA which is a politicized paramilitary leftist group that trains young socialists to fight against the fascists party's (the Falanges) militia and street thugs. At the start of 1936, Jose also begins to date a beautiful and smart young lady by the name of Consuelo Morales.

A still from a film showing three men in 1930s-style suits and fedoras standing in a row against a hazy, industrial background. The man in the center is slightly ahead of the other two.

[the story]

Intercut between the flashbacks of the 1930s, we keep returning to present day Madrid, in 1992 where Luis's mom, Puri and his aunt Mari have gone out to supermarket leaving Luis alone with his grandmother Atocha. Luis is smitten by his grandmother Atocha and her talent of recounting of the past in such a descriptive and theatrical manner. Puri and Mari have a sort of competitive relationship which is addressed during their outing.

Atocha is a narcoleptic but Luis was not informed. During a story session, and thinking she had died suddenly, Luis panics and calls 911 to quickly learn that the emergency number is not the same in Spain. As suddenly as Atocha nodded off, she awakens as if nothing has happened. The storytelling continues...





Meanwhile, through the use of his radio speeches and propaganda the exiled right wing politician Calvo Sotelo finagles himself a seat in Parliament. He's the now the new darling and face of the ever growing fascist party, the Falanges. After announcing his engagement intentions to his siblings and mother during the holy week festivities at their village of Alcalá la Real, Jaén, Jose del Castillo proposes to his sweetheart at a bar in Madrid but unbeknownst to him he has been followed by two suspicious strong men. After a quick interaction, Consuelo realizes that her love might be in real danger and fears she will be left a young widow. Regardless, they both go through the motions as if the world and its craziness mattered not.

During the 5th anniversary parade of the Republic's birth, an off duty Civil Guard officer, Anastasio de los Reyes, is killed by right wing gunmen. Jose del Castillo and his Assault Guards were called to protect the peace during Anastasio's funeral however, a mob of carlist (monarchists) and Falanges (fascists) members crash the funeral. Gunfire rings out and two right wing personalities are killed, one by Jose del Castillo and the other by other members of Jose's Assault Guard. We close the pilot episode with the camera pushing in onto Jose's face as he realizes that his actions will cause retaliation and he rightfully predicts he would be marked for death because of it.

[the story]

[the series]



After the initial pilot episode where the characters and the worlds are introduced, we continue to episode 2 where it begins where the cliffhanger ending of episode 1 end with the skirmish between Assault Guard and right wing paramilitary group led by Llaguno Acha who subsequently was killed by Jose del Castillo. Within the first episode we also were exposed to Jose's other siblings during the holy week festivities. His other siblings are Francisco, Valeriano, Pedro, Laura, Griselda, Dolores and of course, our narrator, Atocha.

In episode 2, Jose and Consuelo's wedding will happen on May 20th, 1936 . Consuelo will be left pregnant by Jose's assassination on July 12th. That same day Luis Cuenca and other members of the Assault Guard will arrest right wing leader Calvo Sotelo in the middle of the night and Luis Cuenca will spontaneously killed him in the patrol car on their way to the station. After these two murders, generals Mola and Franco find the reason enough to rise up and begin a military take over of the Republic government thus sparking the Spanish Civil War on July 17th, 1936, exactly five days after Jose del Castillo's bloody murder on the Madrid streets while he was on his way to report to work.

[the series]

Although the siblings' stories intertwine, each episode will focus on one sibling and their story except for episode 7 where Laura, Dolores and Griselda's stories are told in one episode as their exile to Mexico was a shared experience. The limited series ends with a final family reunion in France in 1964 of the remaining living siblings.

EPISODE 1 "HOMECOMING"

EPISODE 2 "JOSE"

EPISODE 3 "VALERIANO"

EPISODE 4 "FRANCISCO"

EPISODE 5 "ATOCHA"

EPISODE 6 "PEDRO"

EPISODE 7 "LAURA, DOLORES AND GRISELDA"

EPISODE 8 "FRENCH REUNION"

After Episode 2 Jose del Castillo's assassination triggers a chain of events that lead his siblings to protect themselves by fleeing Spain, hiding or confronting their aggressor head on.

For example, Francisco was a lawyer and a Commander in the Spanish military and led the 214th Mixed Brigade for the Republic. In 1939, seeing that the Republic was losing, he fled to the Soviet Union and volunteered in the Red Army, eventually entering Berlin with the Soviets during WWII. He was later decorated with a Red Star and was not permitted to return to Spain until after Franco's death.

His other brother, Valeriano on the other hand was right leaning, attorney for the Navy and Governor of Malaga in 1935/1936. He was tortured by the left and had to hide for 3 years.

Laura, Griselda and Dolores fled to Mexico via the Pyrenees because Laura was married to one of the top intellectuals in Spain at the time, Joaquin Rodriguez Rodriguez and was permitted to enter Mexico on a special visa. He brought along Laura's two sisters. Later, Pedro their brother would join them but soon die due to having spent over 7 years in a concentration camp in France.



[8 siblings]



FRANCISCO



PEDRO



VALERIANO



JOSE



DOLORES



ATOCHA



GRISELDA



LAURA



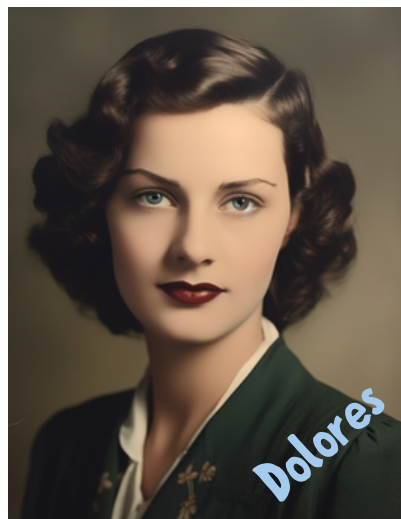
Valeriano



Atocha



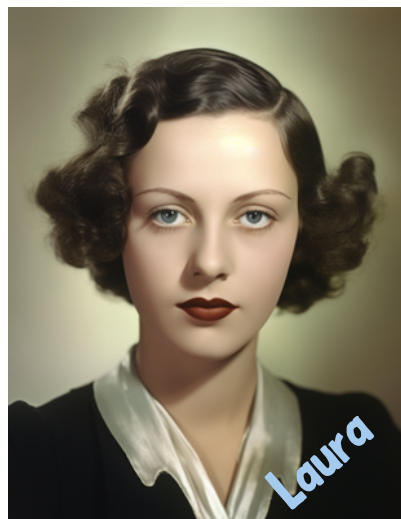
Jose



Dolores



Pedro



Laura

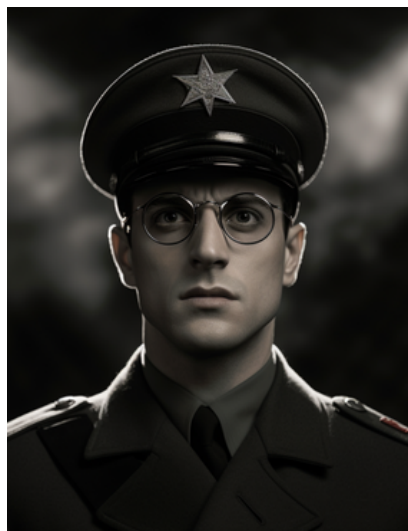


Francisco



Griselda







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