



Remember the Alamo

Characters

Henry McArdle

Santa Anna

Susanna Dickinson

William Travis

James Bowie

Davy Crockett

Setting

The story begins at Henry McArdle's house in 1874. From there, the scene flashes back in time to 1836 at the Battle of the Alamo. Texans at the Alamo desperately try to keep out the invading Mexican troops. The Texans cut holes in the walls of the rooms so they could fire at the approaching soldiers. Many women and children hide in the chapel. After 13 days of fighting, Santa Anna's troops manage to break through the Alamo's walls. They kill all the men and spare only the women, children, and slaves. The reader's theater concludes at Henry McArdle's house.



Act I

McArdle:

I want to thank both of you for meeting with me today. I know it was not an easy decision for either of you.

Santa Anna:

First of all, I hope it is all right if I call you Henry. Frankly, I am pleased that you wanted to meet. I am glad that even though you are an American, you have an open mind.

McArdle:

I am working on an Alamo project, and I need to know what happened.

Santa Anna:

I am glad that you want to know the truth about the Battle of the Alamo. Many of your countrymen avoid the truth. They just wish to believe myths and lies.

McArdle:

What do you mean? Why do you say that?

Santa Anna:

I was accused of being cruel and power hungry. That was a lie! I had the right to stop the rebellious Texans from seceding. Mexico could not be strong if the people in its provinces could do whatever they wanted.



McArdle: I see what you are saying. You were one country.

Santa Anna: Yes. And this one country needed one set of laws. People who did not like the laws could not be allowed to just grab our land for themselves! I think that the Americans should have understood that.

Dickinson: Mr. Santa Anna, it is not as simple as that, and you know it! Your attack on the Alamo was vicious! What you did to the people there was brutal! Henry, I am glad you want to know what really happened. I am just wondering what your Alamo project is and why you need our help.

McArdle: I intend to paint a very important piece of art about the Battle of the Alamo. It is vital that I capture what really occurred. I want the people who view it to know the truth.

Dickinson: I was there at the final battle of the Alamo. I was also there for the 13 days of carnage before it. I know that your forces, Mr. Santa Anna, were cruel, indeed. I watched as my husband, Captain Dickinson, was killed. I watched as you ordered the cold-blooded murder of all the men who survived the battle.



Santa Anna: Let me remind you, I am President Santa Anna. Show me some respect.

Dickinson: Sir, your own people had you exiled. I do not wish to call you by your old title. Actually, I should call you Dictator! You claimed you were the dictator in 1835. Don't you remember?

McArdle: Please, both of you calm down. We will need to listen to each other. If we do not, we have no hope of learning the whole truth. Please Susanna, let's just both address Mr. Santa Anna by his title, if that is what he wants. But more importantly, I would like both of you to talk about what happened. President Santa Anna, could you start?

Santa Anna: I am glad to explain all of the events. I will start at the beginning. The Texas rebels said they wanted freedom or they would secede from Mexico.

McArdle: What did they mean by freedom?