



# ENCANTO 666

*A Field Report from the New Mexico Desert*

**James H. Coates**

*in collaboration with Paco the Bot*

Trade Paperback · 6×9 · 167 pages · \$19.95 · Forthcoming 2026

Corrales Press · corralespress.com

## ABOUT THE BOOK

New Mexico doesn't explain itself. It just glows — sometimes from the setting sun, sometimes from what is still in the ground at Trinity. In forty field notes, James H. Coates — 41 years at the *Chicago Tribune*, Pentagon and White House correspondent — turns a reporter's eye on the desert that absorbed him in retirement. Part journalism, part elegy, part field guide. Guided throughout by the New Mexico whiptail lizard: all-female, parthenogenetic, and completely unbothered. Written with an AI the author named Paco the Bot.

## INSIDE THE BOOK

- Trinity Site & the nuclear shadow over New Mexico
- Georgia O'Keeffe & the landscape that shaped her
- Sky City / Acoma Pueblo & Native sovereignty
- Zia sun symbol fused with the nuclear trefoil
- Chimayó, the Santuario & the healing dirt
- Billy the Kid & frontier mythology
- The Hopi calendar & indigenous continuance
- Gringo & Native Magnets — who claims New Mexico
- 75+ word Gringo / Spanglish Lexicon

## THE AUTHOR

**41 years at the Chicago Tribune**

**James H. Coates** spent 41 years at the *Chicago Tribune* as Pentagon correspondent, White House reporter, and Denver Bureau Chief. He lives in Corrales, New Mexico. *Encanto 666* is the most personal book he has ever written — and the first he wrote with a machine.

*Heavy Losses*

Viking-Penguin, 1984

*Armed and Dangerous*

Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1986

*In Mormon Circles*

Addison-Wesley, 1991

## THE AI COLLABORATION ANGLE

*Encanto 666* is a genuine human-AI partnership — not AI-generated content, but an extended working collaboration between a veteran journalist and an AI he named Paco the Bot. "One human, one algorithm; both looking for grace in the static." Galley copies available for review consideration.

**PART IV — GRINGO MAGNETS & NATIVE MAGNETS**

*New Mexico has always pulled outsiders in — artists, billionaires, defense secretaries. It has also always had its own people, whose roots go back centuries. A Pentagon correspondent who covered Rumsfeld in Washington notices the same name on a Taos ranch deed.*

**GRINGO MAGNETS — Outsiders Drawn In****Georgia O'Keeffe**

*Artist — the desert became her canvas and her bones*

**Donald Rumsfeld**

*Secretary of Defense — Taos ranch, nuclear proximity*

**Bill Gates**

*Tech billionaire — drawn to the land's scale*

**Jeff Bezos**

*Amazon founder — launches rockets from the same earth*

**NATIVE MAGNETS — Always Here****Rudolfo Anaya**

*Bless Me, Ultima — the soul of New Mexico fiction*

**Leslie Marmon Silko**

*Ceremony — Laguna Pueblo, land and memory*

**Simon Ortiz**

*Acoma poet — the land's oldest living voice*

**Deb Haaland**

*U.S. Secretary of the Interior — Pueblo of Laguna*

**Denise Chávez**

*Santa Fe writer — border life, women's voices*

*"The same desert that swallowed O'Keeffe's grief and Rumsfeld's ambition has been holding Anaya's stories and Ortiz's poems all along. New Mexico doesn't choose its visitors. It just waits."*

**PITCH ANGLES FOR MEDIA**

1. *A 41-year Chicago Tribune veteran writes his retirement book — with an AI as co-author*
2. *Nuclear age meets Georgia O'Keeffe — on one cover, in one book*
3. *Who colonizes New Mexico now vs. who was always there — a Pentagon reporter notices*
4. *What happens when a Cold War journalist meets the desert — and brings a bot named Paco*

**ADVANCE PRAISE**

*Advance praise to be added upon receipt of endorsements.  
Galley copies available upon request for review consideration.*

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