

# The Mask of Zorro



In 1821, Don Diego de la Vega, a Spanish-born California nobleman, fights \_\_\_\_\_ soldiers in the Mexican War of Independence as Zorro, a mysterious masked swordsman who \_\_\_\_\_ the Mexican peasants and commoners of Las Californias. Don Rafael Montero, the \_\_\_\_\_ governor of the region, learns of De La Vega's alter ego and \_\_\_\_\_ to arrest him. De la Vega's wife Esperanza, whom Montero was \_\_\_\_\_, is killed during the ensuing scuffle. Montero imprisons de La Vega and takes his infant daughter, Elena, as his own before returning to Spain.

Twenty years later, Montero returns to California as a civilian, \_\_\_\_\_ Elena who has grown into a beautiful woman and \_\_\_\_\_ her late mother. Montero's reappearance motivates de La Vega to escape from prison. He \_\_\_\_\_ a thief named Alejandro Murrietta, who, as a child, saved Zorro's life during his last fight. De la Vega decides that fate has brought them together, and agrees to make Alejandro his protégé, grooming him to be the new Zorro. Alejandro agrees to \_\_\_\_\_ de La Vega's training regimen in Zorro's secret cave \_\_\_\_\_ the ruins of his family estate in order to be able to take revenge on Captain Harrison Love, Montero's right-hand man, who was responsible for killing Alejandro's brother, Joaquín.



While still being trained, Alejandro steals a black stallion resembling Zorro's steed Tornado from the local garrison. De La Vega \_\_\_\_\_ Alejandro, claiming that Zorro was a servant of the people, not a thief and adventurer. He challenges Alejandro to gain Montero's \_\_\_\_\_ instead. Alejandro poses as a visiting nobleman named Don Alejandro del Castillo y García, with de la Vega as his servant "Bernardo", and \_\_\_\_\_ a party at Montero's hacienda. At the party, he gains Elena's admiration and enough of Montero's trust to be invited to a secret meeting where several other noblemen are present. Montero hints at a plan to retake California for the Dons and \_\_\_\_\_ it as an independent republic by buying it from General Santa Anna, who needs money for the \_\_\_\_\_ Mexican–American War.



Montero takes Alejandro and the noblemen to a secret gold mine known as "El Dorado", where \_\_\_\_\_ and prisoners are used for slave labor. Montero plans to buy California from Santa Anna using gold mined from Santa Anna's own land. De la Vega, as the servant "Bernardo", uses this opportunity to become closer to Elena, and learns that Montero told Elena that her mother died in \_\_\_\_\_. While walking in a market, Elena meets the woman who was her nanny who tells Elena her parents' real identity. De la Vega sends Alejandro, now officially wearing the \_\_\_\_\_ of Zorro, to steal Montero's map leading to the gold mine. Zorro duels Montero, Love, and their guards at the hacienda. When Zorro escapes, Elena attempts to \_\_\_\_\_ Montero's map from the swordsman, but he seduces her, leading to a passionate kiss before he \_\_\_\_\_.

Terrified of Santa Anna's \_\_\_\_\_ if he discovers that he is being paid with his own gold, Montero, at Love's urging, decides to destroy the mine and kill the workers. De la Vega tells Alejandro to release the workers on his own so that de La Vega can reclaim Elena. Alejandro sets off, feeling betrayed by Diego's vendetta. De la Vega corners Montero at the hacienda and reveals his identity, but Montero captures him by \_\_\_\_\_ to shoot him in front of Elena. As he is taken away, de la Vega tells Elena the name of the flowers, *romneya*, that she recognized upon her arrival in California, convincing her that he is her father. She releases de la Vega from his cell and they proceed to the mine, where Alejandro and de la Vega respectively defeat and slay Love and Montero, \_\_\_\_\_ both Joaquin and Esperanza. Elena and Alejandro free the workers before the explosives \_\_\_\_\_, and then find the mortally wounded de la Vega. He makes peace with Alejandro and Elena and gives his \_\_\_\_\_ for Alejandro to marry his daughter before dying.



Sometime later, Alejandro and Elena are married, and Alejandro tells stories to their infant son, Joaquin, whom he named after his brother, of his grandfather's heroic deeds and legacy as Zorro.

### Finish these sentences

1. de La Vega's last fight as Zorro was during \_\_\_\_\_ :
2. On that occasion young Alejandro \_\_\_\_\_
3. Montero has a grudge against de La Vega because \_\_\_\_\_
4. During de La Vega and Montero's fight \_\_\_\_\_
5. Before returning to Spain, Montero \_\_\_\_\_
6. Montero and Elena return to California \_\_\_\_\_
7. de La Vega trains Alejandro so that he \_\_\_\_\_
8. Montero plans \_\_\_\_\_
9. He intends to achieve this by \_\_\_\_\_
10. Eventually he orders \_\_\_\_\_
11. In the end, both Alejandro and de La Vega manage \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 As a result of a fight, de La Vega \_\_\_\_\_
13. Alejandro and Elena \_\_\_\_\_
14. Alejandro tells little Joaquín \_\_\_\_\_

