

Interview with the writer Vince Santoro on the occasion of the launch of his literary work “The Final Crossing”

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By **Victor R. AGUILAR** .- On the occasion of the launch of the book “ **The Final Crossing** ” written by **Italian-Canadian Vince Santoro** , who grew up in the city of **Toronto** and lives in **Pickering** since 2008 with his **Peruvian-Canadian** wife , **Elizabeth Pollard** . We had the opportunity to learn a little more about the author of this interesting **literary work** , who responded to our concerns. **Vince** is a graduate of **York University** in **History and Behavioral Sciences** , and honed his writing skills by studying **journalism** and publishing various **articles** . In his youth he also played **professional basketball** in his native **Italy** , but his professional life has been linked to the **aerospace industry** , **Bombardier** , Toronto and **Safran Landing Systems** in Ajax. He is now returning to writing and presents us with “ **The Final Crossing** ”:

1.- How did the idea of writing “The Final Crossing” come about?

A.- I was always curious about **ancient civilizations** , which led me to study **History** at university. And I always wanted to try to write a book. I also studied **Behavioral Sciences** and it occurred to me that the two disciplines were interconnected. **Both dealt with the search for freedom, love and the guiding hand of a god** . I read a lot of books, historical fiction, that took place in ancient times, which motivated me to write a book as well. So, I chose **ancient Egypt** to tell a story about what I

believe has been man's quest since time immemorial.

2.- What is the title “The Final Crossing” due to, and what is the content of the work?

A.- The title symbolizes a final crossover in **two aspects** , which occurs near the end of the story. The **protagonist** , Nenshi, has traveled through lands from **Egypt** all the way to **Persia** . His experiences during his journey have affected him to the point that he redefines who he is. At the same time, among the nomads of **Persia** , he must cross a treacherous river, which is the last leg of the **tribe** 's migration to the green pastures. This is new to **Nenshi** . The final crossing is both one of his right of way to change his ways and one of physical uncertainty, whether he will succeed in the crossing or not.

3.- What do you intend to convey to readers with this story?

A.- The story is one of perseverance, of never giving up on a goal. For the protagonist it meant never giving up his search for freedom. The story also reflects a theme of acceptance and tolerance, that is, accepting other beliefs, cultures, customs, religions, etc. Finally, among all the things that change throughout history, the essence or spirit of man does not change.

4.- What was the biggest challenge you faced when writing “The Final Crossing”?

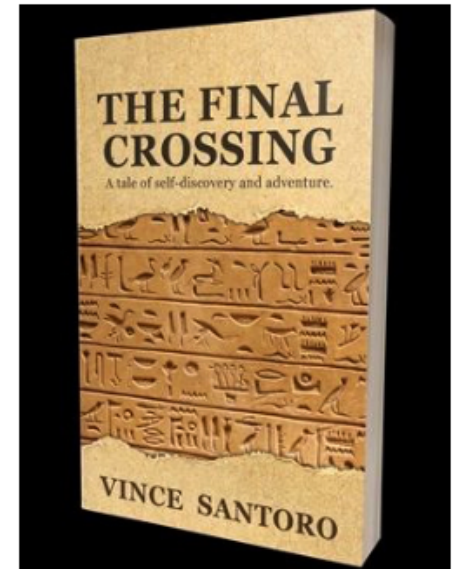
A.- Research is always a challenge when writing a **historical fiction novel** . Many books have been written about ancient **Egypt** , but I wanted to make sure I focused on the specific period of my history. I also didn't want my story to sound like a history book. The challenge was to incorporate **historical** elements into an enjoyable story.

5.- What do you expect from the reader when they finish reading your work?

A.- I hope that readers will challenge themselves on how we see the world, whether it is to question our beliefs, change our behaviors or redefine ourselves and our world for a better life.

6.- What kind of readers are you mainly targeting in this literary work?

A.- I wrote this story for adults in general and for those who enjoy reading historical fiction. It's an enjoyable story full of twists and turns, tension, difficulties, and even a surprising ending. It is also for readers who want to break away and immerse themselves in the world of antiquity.



7.- Where can you buy this book?

A.- The book is **available** in print, paperback, and e-reader through **amazon.ca** , at **Chapters/Indigo** , or at a favorite retailer/bookstore. It is also available in the **US** through **amazon.com** and **Barnes & Noble** , as well as in the **UK** , **Australia**, and **Europe** through **Amazon**.



Elizabeth Pollard and Vince Santoro.

8.- Are you immersed in any other literary project that you can tell us about?

A.- Yes, I have started a second **novel** , also historical fiction, set in Italy and North **Africa** during World War II, entitled **LETTERS OF REDEMPTION** .

The story is told through two protagonists: Antonio and María. It is a story of Antonio's search for reconciliation between his transgressions and Maria's hunger for independence and apprehension for newfound love.

During the **war** , **Antonio** writes letters to **María** , on behalf of another soldier, **Roberto** . Roberto had never learned to write. Maria didn't know because she had just met him before she was sent to the North African front. The secret is well hidden and even after **Roberto** 's death in battle, as the war continues, so do the letters. They become Antonio's own expression of love that ultimately drives him to **Taormina** to **Rome** .to find work and help his parents in a Sicily ravaged by poverty and war. It is also an opportunity to be independent. **And she doesn't know about Roberto** 's death .

When the war comes to an end, Antonio must find María, ask for her forgiveness and declare his love for her. María, who has also fallen in love with the man behind the letters, must decide whether to follow her heart or let **Antonio** go .