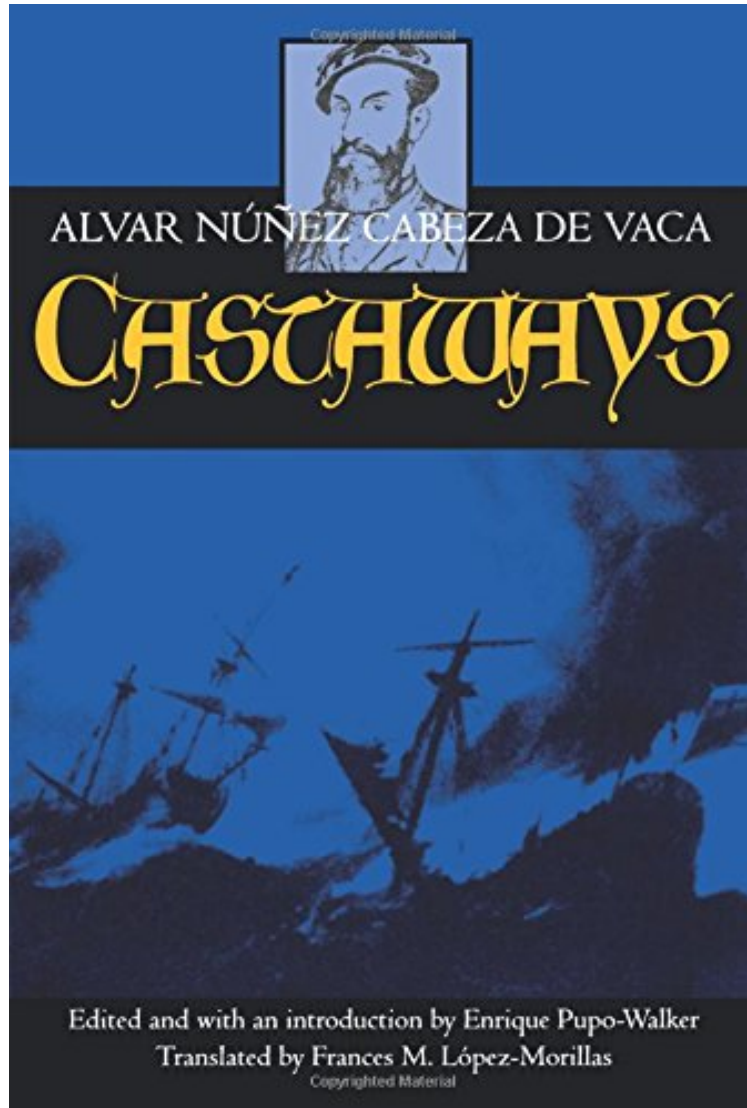


(Library ebook) Castaways: The Narrative of Alvar Nez Cabeza de Vaca

## Castaways: The Narrative of Alvar Nez Cabeza de Vaca

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text. When taken as a whole, the text along with the many scholarly notes provide an interesting look into 16th century America. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. a little disappointing first person account from 16 th century ...By herb lover a little disappointing first person account from 16 th century and translation so maybe all one can expect 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Incredible story By Shannon C. This is a tale that everyone should read. It gives an excellent glimpse into America hundred of years ago at what it took to survive.

This enthralling story of survival is the first major narrative of the exploration of North America by Europeans (1528-36). The author of *Castaways (Naufragios)*, Alvar Nez Cabeza de Vaca, was a fortune-seeking nobleman and the treasurer of an expedition to claim for Spain a vast area that includes today's Florida, Louisiana, and Texas. A shipwreck forced him and a handful of men to make the long westward journey on foot to meet up with Hernn Cortes. In order to survive, Cabeza de Vaca joined native peoples along the way, learning their languages and practices and serving them as a slave and later as a physician. When after eight years he finally reached the West, he was not recognized by his compatriots. In his writing Cabeza de Vaca displays great interest in the cultures of the native peoples he encountered on his odyssey. As he forged intimate bonds with some of them, sharing their brutal living conditions and curing their sick, he found himself on a voyage of self-discovery that was to make his reunion with his fellow Spaniards less joyful than expected. Cabeza de Vaca's gripping narrative is a trove of ethnographic information, with descriptions and interpretations of native cultures that make it a powerful precursor to modern anthropology. Frances M. Lopez-Morillas's translation beautifully captures the sixteenth-century original. Based as it is on Enrique Pupo-Walker's definitive critical edition, it promises to become the authoritative English translation.

"Even if your collection has one of the earlier translations of this basic southwestern document, you'll want to add this one."--"Books of the Southwest Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: Spanish About the Author Enrique Pupo-Walker is Centennial Professor of Spanish and Portuguese at Vanderbilt University. His edition of *Naufragios* was published in Spain in 1992. Frances M. Lopez-Morillas is an award-winning translator living in Austin, Texas.