

Dear Bookseller,

It's not every day you get to publish a first novel that draws a starred review in *PW*, rave reviews in the *Wall Street Journal* ("masterful, vivid and haunting") and *New York Times Book Review* ("a work of true American frenzy") and frequent comparisons to *Catch-22*. Especially one that then goes on to be named one of the best books of 2005 by the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Washington Book World*. But that's exactly what happened when we published *Nam-A-Rama* by Phillip Jennings, and it was a thrill.

Of course, as one contemplates the dreaded possibility of sophomore slump, all that made the challenge for the next book all the more daunting. Even the most confident author has to wonder if he can match or even top himself. A supportive editor might even resort to making little check marks in the manuscript margin each time he laughs out loud.

Which now enables me to confidently report that *Goodbye Mexico* is at least as funny, just as pointed, and as truly relevant as its predecessor. Continuing the unpredictable adventures of Jack Armstrong and his wild and crazy buddy Gearheardt enmeshed in another of America's foreign entanglements – this time via the CIA rather than the USMC -- *Goodbye Mexico* is the second volume of what is becoming a thematic trilogy devoted to three crucial American institutions -- the military, the intelligence establishment, and big business -- all inspired by the author's actual experiences.

The early response from outside the house confirms my impression. Danny Rubin, creator of *Groundhog Day*, knows something about comedy with substance and says, "If this were a movie, I'd see it. If it weren't a movie, I'd write it."

And *Publishers Weekly* has just seconded the motion, saying, "Former Marine and CIA agent Jennings returns with a riotous sequel to his acclaimed Vietnam farce *Nam-A-Rama* . . . a gonzo satire of international diplomacy."

So please ask your customers to say hello to *Goodbye Mexico* by Phillip Jennings. They'll thank you, as I do.

Sincerely,

Moshe Feder
Editor