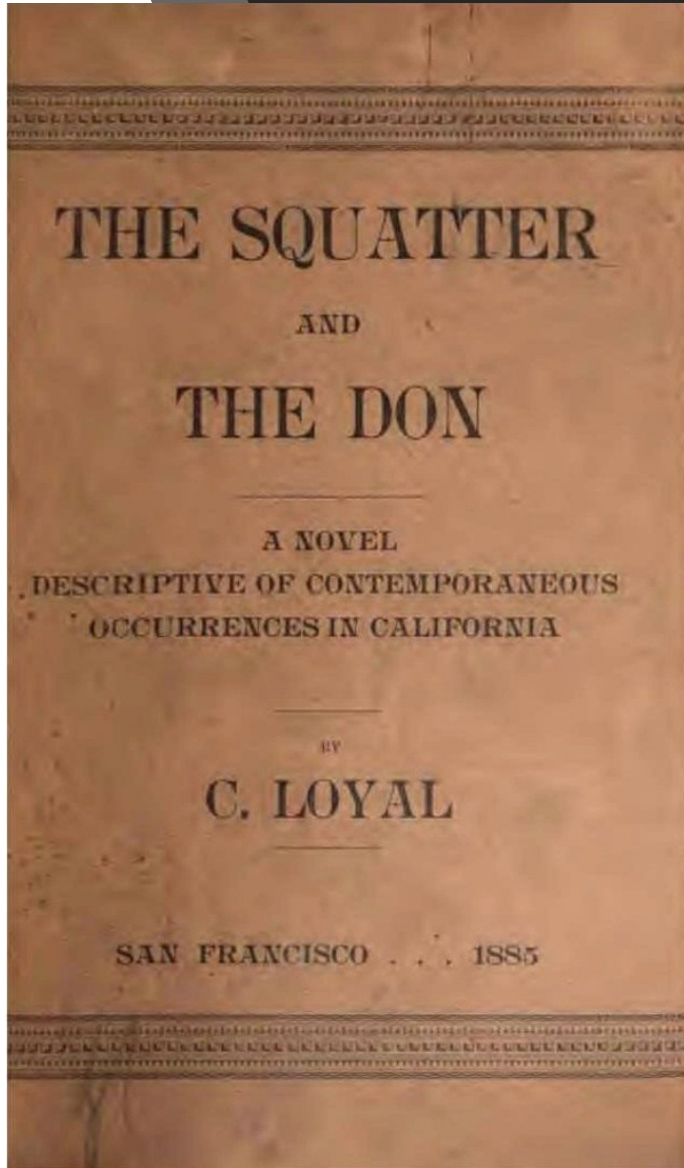




**SPAN322:
“North of the Río Grande”
US Latino/Chicano
Literature**

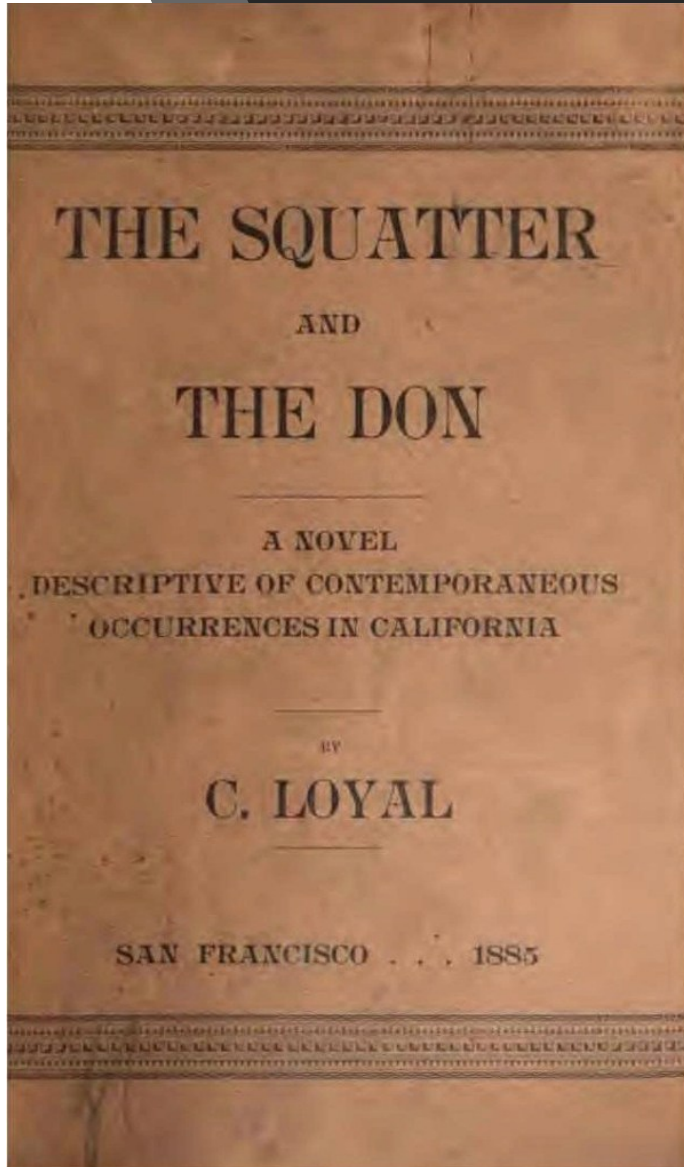
The Squatter and the Don Ib
January 16, 2020

THE SQUATTER AND THE DON



The Squatter and the Don

- In what sense is Ruiz de Burton a “Ciudadano Loyal”?
- What does the book have to say about the role of the law and the legal system?
- What does the book say about the state, politics, and political representation?
- How does the love story mesh with the story about land and territory?
- How does affect interact with reason?



The Squatter and the Don

- Who are the key characters, and what are the relationships between them?
- Family, land, love, money, nationality, ethnicity all both unite and divide.
- There are divisions both between groups and within groups
- The book is also about the construction of new relationships: continuities and changes

“Shake hands with the gentleman, that's a dear,” said Victoriano, talking baby talk to her.

“Oh, papa, make Tano hush. Mr. Darrell, I am afraid that I shall always seem ridiculous to you.”

“Not at all; I don't see why,” Clarence replied, “but I fear that your hurt might be serious.”

“That's it. You might be ridiculous, but your hurt might be serious,” said Victoriano.

It was Clarence's turn to blush now, but he smiled good naturedly.

“You won't be serious, though. I wish you were, and polite, too,” said Mercedes. “I don't know what Mr. Darrell will think of us.”

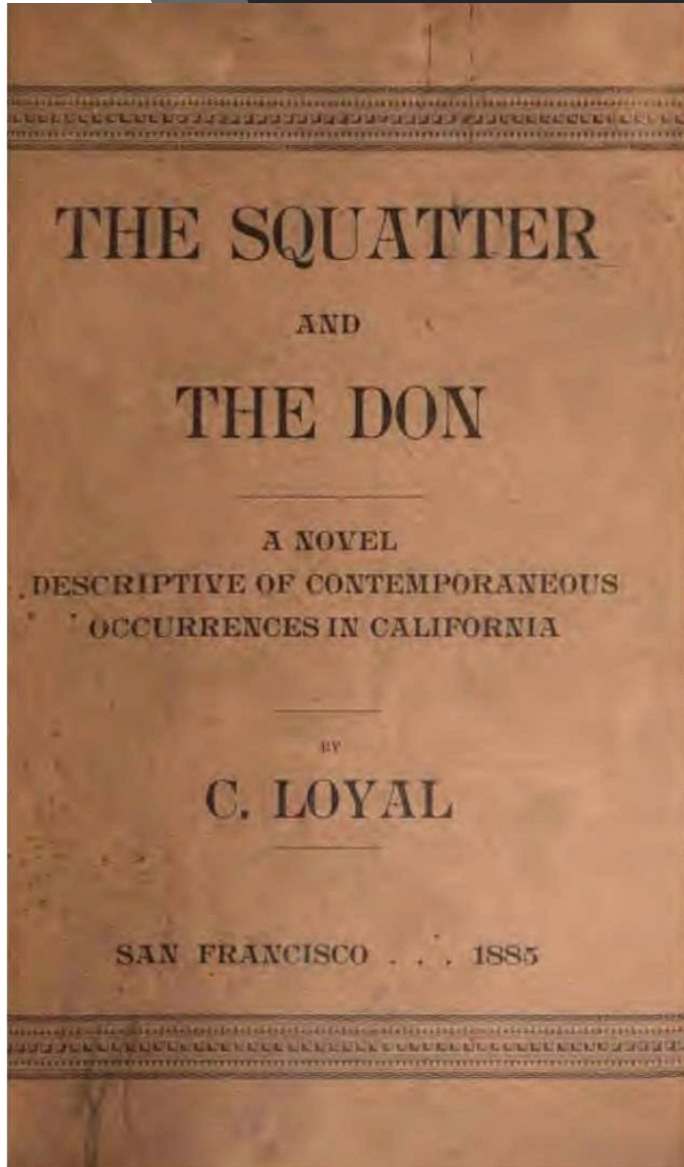
“Mr. Darrell will see us often, I hope, and think better of Tano,” said Don Mariano, carrying away his precious burden.

“My opinion is all that you could wish, Miss Mercedes,” said Clarence, and their eyes met, transmitting that strange thrill to both.

Don Mariano placed Mercedes tenderly on her mamma's lounge, called Madam Halier to attend to the sprained ankle, and returned to the veranda.

Clarence made no delay in stating the object of his visit. He said:

“Since the meeting I have had several talks with the settlers, and the result has been my conviction, that they will not accept your generous offer. They, no doubt, wish to take up more land, and think it cannot be done if they bind themselves to put up fences by accepting your proposition. How short-sighted they are time alone will show, for at present they will not listen to reason.” (57)



The Squatter and the Don

- What are the key events in the novel, and how does the plot unfold?
- History unfolds both on a large scale (wars and treaties) and on a small scale (picnics and dinners).
- This is a book about delay and waiting, but also about impulse and passion.
- Distance imposes a particular temporality, but there is a sense that this will change, that history is speeding up.

“To be guided by good advice, is to profit by the wisdom of others; to be guided by experience, is to profit by wisdom of our own,” said Mrs. Darrell to her husband, in her own sweet, winning way, as they sat alone in the sitting room of their Alameda farm house, having their last talk that evening, while she darned his stockings and sewed buttons on his shirts. [. . .] Mr. and Mrs. Darrell sat up later, having much to talk about, as he would leave next day for Southern California, intending to locate—somewhere in a desirable neighborhood—a homestead claim.

“Therefore,” continued Mrs. Darrell, seeing that her husband smoked his pipe in silence, adding no observations to her own, “let us this time be guided by our own past history, William—our experience. In other words, let us be wise, my husband.”

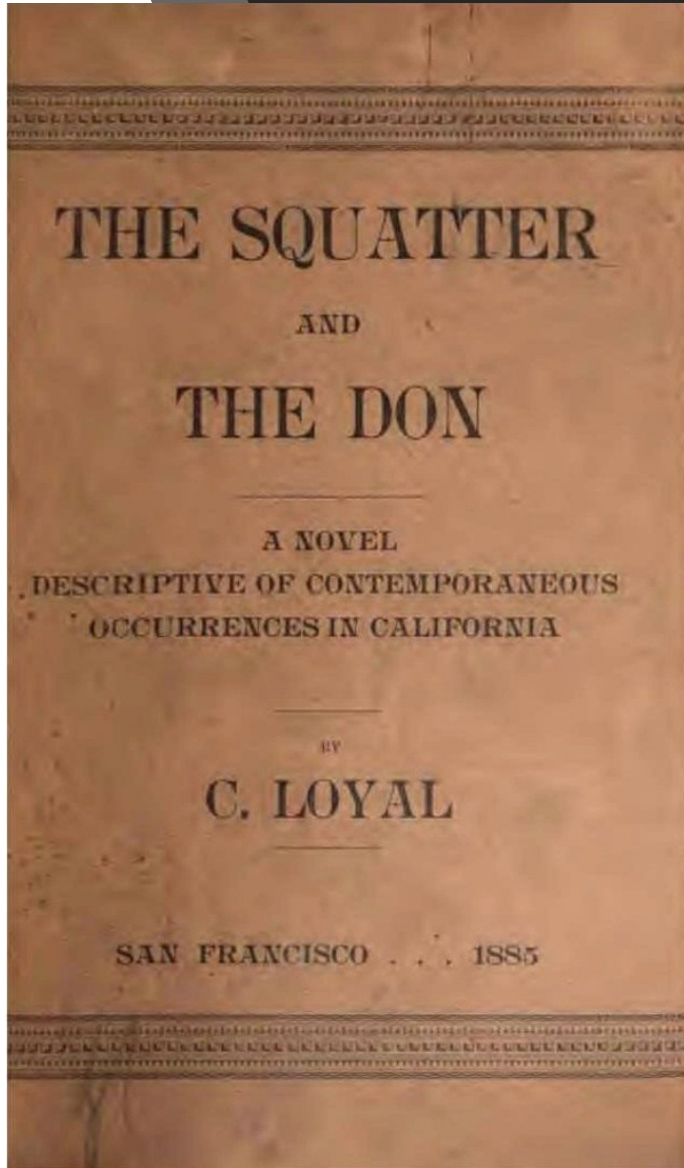
“By way of variety, you mean,” said he smiling. “That is, as far as I am concerned, because I own, frankly, that had I been guided by your advice—your wisdom—we would be much better off to-day. You have a right to reproach me.”

“I do not wish to do anything of the kind. I think reproaches seldom do good.”

“No use in crying over spilt milk, eh?”

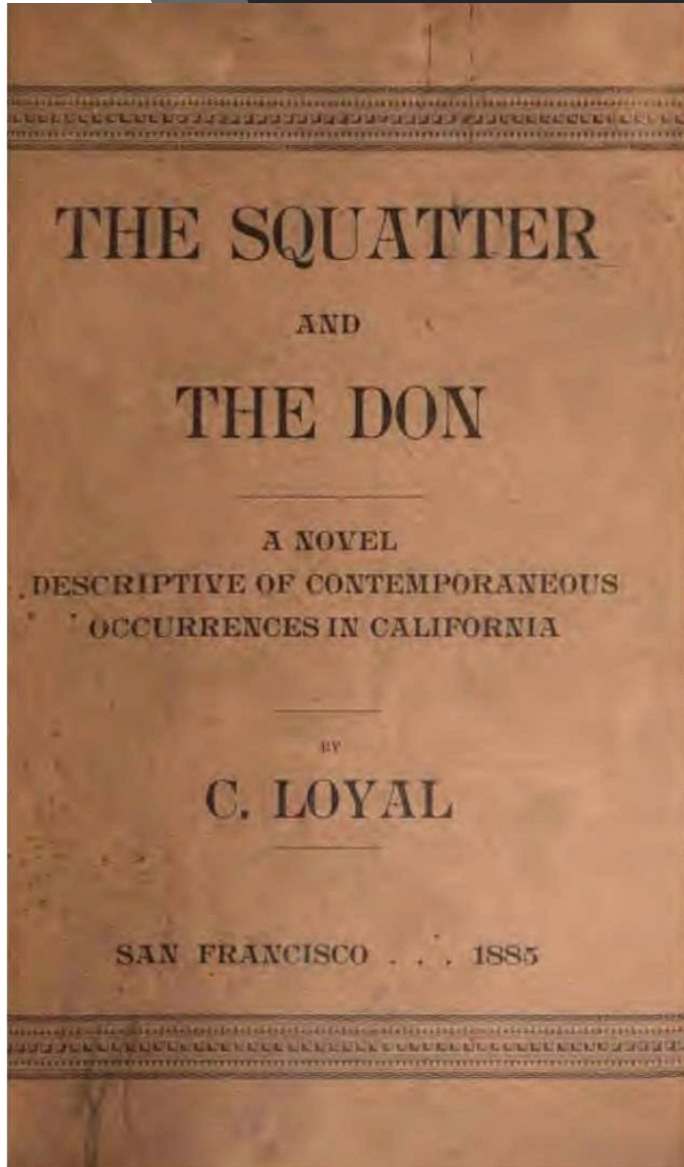
“That is not my idea, either. On the contrary, if by ‘milk’ it is meant all or any earthly good whatever, it is the ‘spilt milk’ that we should lament. There is no reason to cry for the milk that has not been wasted, the good that is not lost. So let us cry for the spilt milk, by all means, if by doing so we learn how to avoid spilling any more. Let us cry for the spilt milk, and remember how, and where, and when, and why, we spilt it. Much wisdom is learnt through tears, but none by forgetting our lessons.”

(3-4)



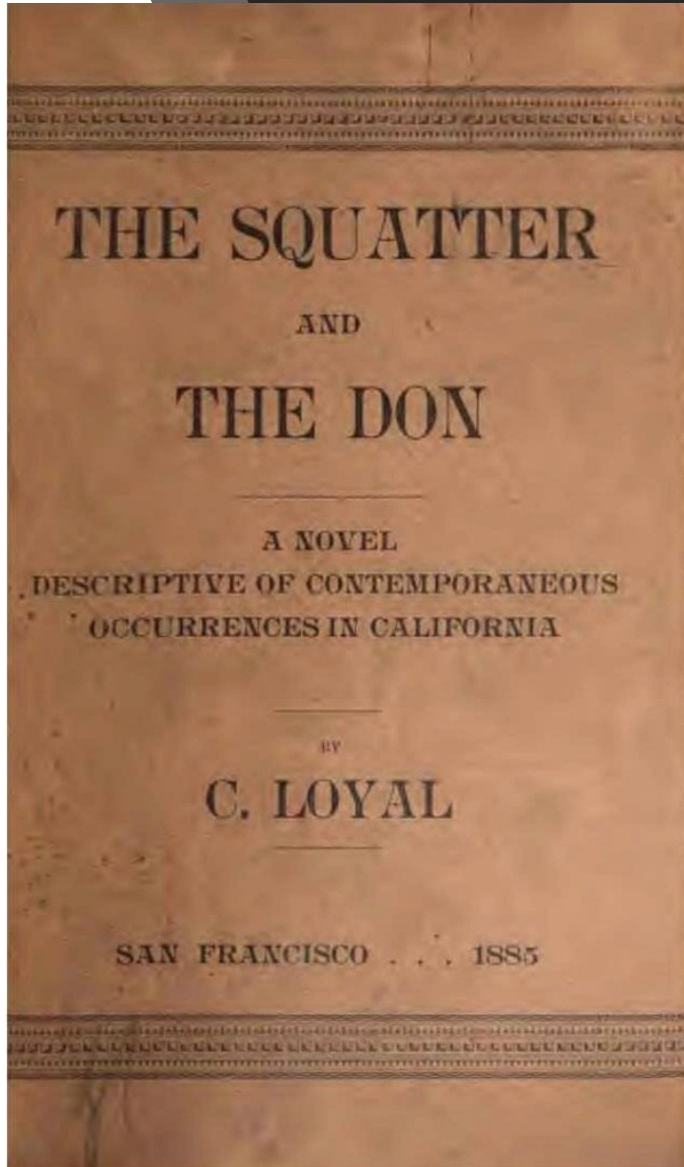
The Squatter and the Don

- What are the “kinks” in this novel?



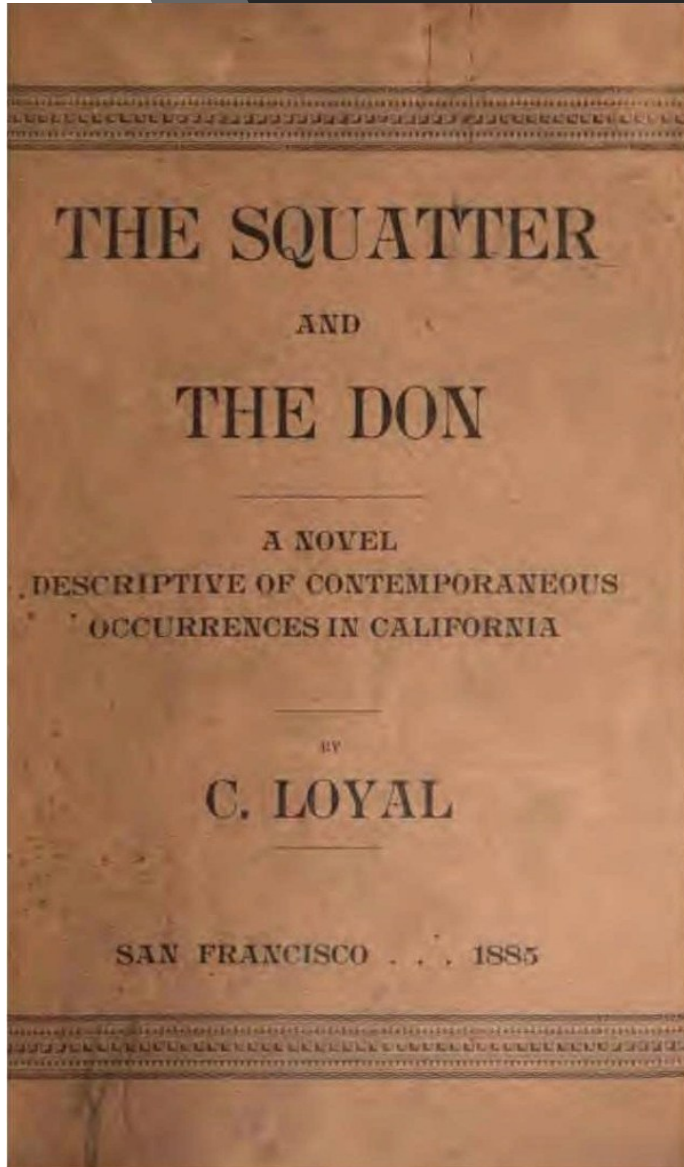
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The Squatter and the Don

- A reminder of some key concepts...
- Identity, Community
- Belonging, Difference
- Race, Gender, Language
- History, Time / temporality
- Trauma, Fantasy
- Performance / appearance



The Squatter and the Don

- A reminder of some key concepts...
- Representation, The Law, The State
- Crime, Deviance, Violence
- Territory, Space / spatiality
- Affect, Shame, Pride
- The Particular, The Universal

WIKIPEDIA

Why a Wikipedia Assignment?

- Wikipedia has many strengths, but also many weaknesses; it is very uneven. But it is a work in progress: it can always be improved.
- One of its weaknesses is that while it is good on, for example, pop culture and military history (which reflects the interests of active editors), it is poor on, for example, women, minorities, and the non-Anglophone world.



Why a Wikipedia Assignment?

- Editing Wikipedia will therefore help you develop your skills in using Wikipedia, evaluating online and other sources, research, and writing for a public audience.
- It will also add to the encyclopedia's information on an otherwise under-represented topic, and help future students and the public learn about US Latino/Chicano literature.



Starting out on Wikipedia

- Remember that you cannot break Wikipedia: anything you do can later be undone.
- Look at the documentation and resources linked from our project page.
- But also start editing: write something on your user page. Make an edit (even if just adding a comma) on an article or two.
- Read the article we will be working on, and think about how they might be improved.



NEXT STEPS

For Tuesday

- Finish reading *The Squatter and the Don*.
- Write a blog post (c. 400 words) about your reading, and publish it Monday evening.
- Sign up for a Wikipedia article you want to edit at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Jbmurray/NRG2>.
- Start experimenting with Wikipedia: make at least one edit on any article in the encyclopedia.