

# NORTH



# BEACH



A NOVEL BY  
**MILES ARCENEAU**



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**EXCERPT:** As we drove over the tall hump of the Harbor Bridge, I gazed down at the North Beach neighborhood below. It looked gloomy and pitiful and dark. . . . Once it had been a popular tourist destination, full of boisterous crowds of vacationers, stevedores, and sailors, along with local well-to-do families. Billboards promoted it as Texas’s own Coney Island, “the Playground of the South.” I had vivid childhood memories of the long fishing pier, the saltwater swimming pool with its high-diving board, and next to it, the Surf Bath House, where you could rinse off in a fresh-water shower after swimming, and then order an ice cream float from the soda fountain. . . . You could see clear to Mustang Island from the top of the Ferris wheel. . . .

But North Beach had changed since then. The carnival and amusement park went broke after the causeway was constructed, and a few years later, when the pivoting Bascule Bridge was replaced by the high-arch Harbor Bridge, people and cars began to hurry past the area as if it were a drunk passed out on the street. You could stare as you went by, but you sure didn’t want to stop. . . . Now only a few greasy spoons, pawn shops, dollar-a-day-flophouses, and a handful of windowless bars remained—bars off the beaten path, bars that people went to when they didn’t want to be seen, or found..

“Johnny?”

“What, brother man?”

“Do you think Rachel would’ve been crazy enough to duck into one of those North Beach joints?”

He eased his foot off the accelerator, thinking about it, and then zipped over to catch the last North Beach exit before the Nueces Bay Causeway. “It’s worth a shot,” he answered. “And, yeah, I think she’s crazy enough.”

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Miles Arceneaux is the *nom de plume* of Texas-based writers Brent Douglass, John T. Davis, and James R. Dennis. Miles was born many years ago as this group of friends began a collectively written story that ultimately became the popular mystery novel, *Thin Slice of Life* (2012), followed by *La Salle’s Ghost* (2013) and *Ransom Island* (2014). *North Beach* is the fourth in this series of salty Gulf Coast thrillers.

**WHO WILL LOVE THIS BOOK:** Readers of mysteries, thrillers and suspense novels; comic mystery lovers; fishermen and fans of the Texas Coast; fans of Texana and the 1960s.