

Penguin Modern Classics

Miguel Angel Asturias

The President

A tropical South American state . . . miserly beggars are mustering and jostling in the porch of the capital's church for the night, when above the moans and snores, and yelping of half-starved dogs, rises the cry of a man mutilated and torn to death by a crazy tramp.

This is the first link of the chain of events which winds through the novel to the source of the corruption – the feared, omnipotent President.

His subjects squirm and crawl to avoid a brutal displeasure and even the sly double-faced dissenter, Angel Face, cannot evade a death in a dank underground cell.

The President is an alarming evocation of political corruption, with a richness of style which forces stark reality to the limits of surrealism.

Asturias was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1967.

The cover, designed by Germano Facetti, shows a detail from the fresco 'The President of the Republic' by Siqueiros Alvaro, at the Castillo Chapultepec, Mexico City