



The Potbellied Virgin (Paperback)

By Alicia Yanez Cossio

University of Texas Press, United States, 2006. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. In an unnamed town in the Ecuadorian Andes, a small wooden icon-La Virgen Pipona (the Potbellied Virgin)-conceals the documents that define the town s social history. That history recently has been dominated by the women of the Benavides family, a conservative clan and, not coincidentally, the caretakers of the Virgin. Their rivals are the Pandos, a family led by four old men who spend their days smoking in the park across from the Virgin s cathedral and offering revisionist versions of local and national events. When a military skirmish threatens the Virgin (and the secret in her famous belly), the Benavides women must scramble to preserve their place as local matriarchs-without alerting the old Pandos to the opportunity that might enable them to finally supplant their rivals. One of Ecuador s foremost contemporary writers, Alicia Yanez Cossio illuminates the complexity of Andean society by placing disenfranchised players such as women and Amerindians onstage with traditional powers such as the military and the church. Folk wisdom, exemplified in The Potbellied Virgin by the beautifully translated proverbs so popular with the Benavideses and the Pandos alike,...



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