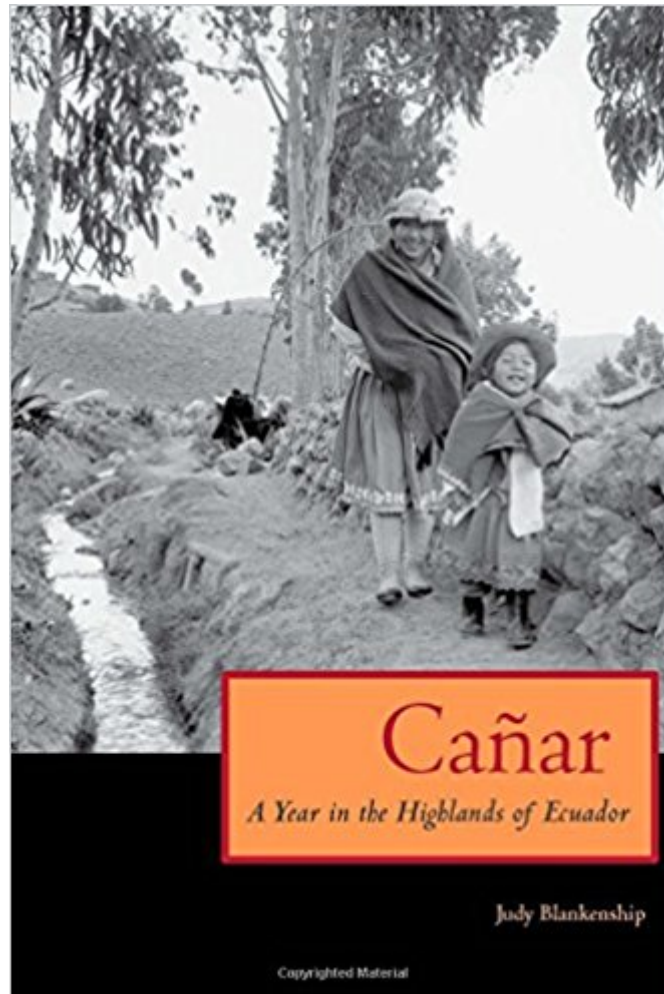




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Canar: A Year In The Highlands Of Ecuador



Synopsis

Once isolated from the modern world in the heights of the Andean mountains, the indigenous communities of Ecuador now send migrants to New York City as readily as they celebrate festivals whose roots reach back to the pre-Columbian past. Fascinated by this blending of old and new and eager to make a record of traditional customs and rituals before they disappear entirely, photographer-journalist Judy Blankenship spent several years in Cañar, Ecuador, photographing the local people in their daily lives and conducting photography workshops to enable them to preserve their own visions of their culture. In this engaging book, Blankenship combines her sensitively observed photographs with an inviting text to tell the story of the most recent year she and her husband Michael spent living and working among the people of Cañar. Very much a personal account of a community undergoing change, Cañar documents such activities as plantings and harvests, religious processions, a traditional wedding, healing ceremonies, a death and funeral, and a home birth with a native midwife. Along the way, Blankenship describes how she and Michael went from being outsiders only warily accepted in the community to becoming neighbors and even godparents to some of the local children. She also explains how outside forces, from Ecuador's failing economy to globalization, are disrupting the traditional lifeways of the Cañari as economic migration virtually empties highland communities of young people. Blankenship's words and photographs create a moving, intimate portrait of a people trying to balance the demands of the twenty-first century with the traditions that have formed their identity for centuries.

Book Information

Series: The William and Bettye Nowlin Series in Art, History, and Culture of the Western Hemisphere

Paperback: 223 pages

Publisher: University of Texas Press; 1st Ed edition (April 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0292706391

ISBN-13: 978-0292706392

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,107,389 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in Books > History >

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Customer Reviews

"General readers will enjoy this book. . . . It will appeal to those who are curious about life in a Third World village and those who are interested in contemporary indigenous communities." (Lynn Hirschkind, Professor and Academic Director, Lewis and Clark College International Program, Cuenca, Ecuador)

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Judy Blankenship and her husband Michael lived for a year in the Ecuadorian indigenous village of Cañar. Her wonderful writing pulls you into the story and the relationships they developed with the people who live there. I highly recommend this book. Judy has also written a book about their experiences building a house in Cañar called "Our House in the Clouds". I also recommend it as a wonderful read.

Sensitively written and documented with the author's photographs. Canari culture is less well-known than other South American indigenous cultures and Blankenship records her experiences with useful directness.

Well written book about very interesting people that most of us would never know anything about. I enjoyed reading this book.

I didn't like the writing style ... Not very insightful .. Many other preferable books about Ecuador and various regions.

I loved reading "Cañar: A Year in the Highlands of Ecuador," by Judy Blankenship. The book had special meaning for me, being one of those people who dream constantly about living and getting to know other cultures, but alas, manage to get to visit few foreign places. From its opening words the

writing gripped me and I traveled with the author every step of the way as she so compellingly wrote about her experiences and her affection for the Cañari people. The expressive photographs that accompany the text transported me even more deeply into a land I will never know for myself. We armchair travelers are endlessly indebted and grateful to artists like Judy Blankenship. Fraidie Martz

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