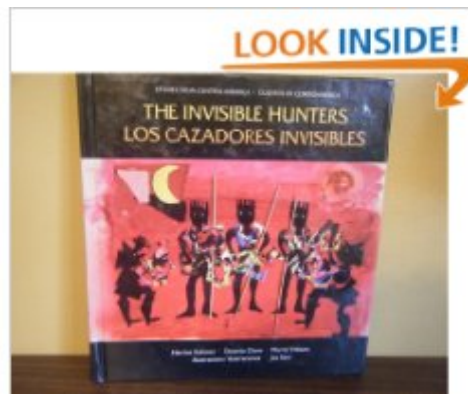


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Los Cazadores Invisibles: Una Leyenda De Los Indios Miskitos De Nicaragua / The Invisible Hunters (Stories From Central America =)



Synopsis

This Miskito Indian legend set in seventeenth-century Nicaragua illustrates the impact of the first European traders on traditional life.

Book Information

Series: Stories from Central America =

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Children's Book Press (CA); First Edition edition (June 1987)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 089239031X

ISBN-13: 978-0892390311

Product Dimensions: 9.8 x 9.3 x 0.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I got this because I wanted to learn more about Nicaragua, and this is an awesome book. I love it! It's a fable from the Miskito people in northeastern Nicaragua, by the Atlantic ocean. It's about three hunters in a small village along the Coco river. As they're hunting wild pigs, they find this ancient mystical plant called the Dar. If you touch any of its magical vines, then you turn invisible. So, they make a deal with the Dar where the Dar gives them some vines to turn them invisible, which in turn will greatly help them to hunt wild pigs. But, the Dar says that they can't ever sell pig meat, and they can't ever hunt pigs with guns. They agree, and get the vines which turn them invisible, and then they become famous hunters. I'll stop my retelling at this point, because I don't want to spoil the story for you. But, it's a pretty typical fable. It's in English and in Spanish. There's no Miskito in it. I think that Dar is the Spanish word, because dar means "to give," and that ancient vine is very generous. I did some research, and dar isn't a word in Miskito, and to give in Miskito is yab-aia, so maybe that's the name of the mystical plant in the original tale. I loved the themes in this book: invisibility, mystical plants, making deals with elementals, small village, Nicaragua, tribal hunters, wild pigs, trade and commerce overtaking a village, and much more. It's really short. You can finish it in about ten minutes. The illustrations are pretty good, and the story could use a little more detail,

like what the Dar looks like, but overall, it's awesome!

I used to live on the Rio Coco, I'm a translator, and I'm the father of a 5 year-old Spanish speaker. It's a nice story with an instructive moral. I have two complaints. The illustrations are the unfortunately ever more ubiquitous computer-generated type like the Eric Carlyle books. I am a fan of hand drawn illustrations such as in the Maurice Sendic or Ferdinand books. In my opinion, the drawings are lifeless and lack sufficient detail to hold a child's attention or provoke visual exploration. My second, and objective, complaint is that the Spanish translation is terrible. There are a number of errors and many stilted calques from English that are completely unnatural to Spanish. An example is "sus corazones se alejaron de su gente" for "their hearts turned away from the people". The Spanish is nonsensical. The Wari "wild pig" are rendered as "puerco salvaje". In Spanish they are "jabalí" (regardless whether they are specifically boars). More specifically in Nicaragua a wild pig is called a "danto", which would have been a useful addition to a culturally specific story from Nicaragua. It's a shame, such a nice story deserves a decent translation. Unfortunately, it is all too common in bilingual children's books that the Spanish is badly translated. For exquisite Spanish language (only) children's books, with beautiful illustrations, I highly recommend the editorial, Ekaré. We must have nearly twenty of their books, and all of them are jewels of Latin American culture and Spanish.

I was looking for some Miskito legends because I'm half-Miskito, yet unfamiliar with Miskito culture... having been raised in the US. So I bought this book & when it arrived, the first thing I noticed was that one of the authors was "Morris Vidaure". Mr. Vidaurre (that's the correct spelling) is my grandfather! I had no idea about this at all... so that was pretty shocking. Aside from that, it was an excellent book with a powerful theme. It's basically about how money tends to ruin things... the story lets you see how indigenous people viewed these interactions from traders. It's quite fascinating, so I suppose if you're into anthropology or other cultures or just stories with good morals, you might like it as well.

My wife is from Nicaragua and we are always thrilled when we come across children's books from there. Our four year old really likes the book. It's a nice story w/ a good moral and lesson.

my niece loves it. whether you're from nicaragua or not this is a great book and timeless story

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