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La Tierra Del Fuego (Spanish Edition)



Synopsis

Two cultures, one violent encounter. The latest novel by Sylvia Iparraguirre is based on the story of a Ymara Indian named Jemmy Button. In 1830, a British sea captain took Jemmy from his native land, Cape Horn (Cabo de Hornos), Argentina, with the intent of taking him to London and converting him into a polished and civilized man. Jemmy was then returned to his homeland to influence the barbaric people to become civilized like the British. It is only during a trial in the Islas Malvinas (Falkland Islands) that it is revealed to the reader just how miserably the experiment had failed.

Book Information

Paperback: 285 pages

Publisher: Aguilar (December 31, 1998)

Language: Spanish

ISBN-10: 9505114141

ISBN-13: 978-9505114146

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 5.2 x 0.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.9 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,072,560 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #160 in [Books > Libros en espaÃ±ol > Revistas CÃ³micas y Novelas GrÃ¡ficas > Novelas GrÃ¡ficas](#) #1291 in [Books > Libros en espaÃ±ol > Literatura y ficciÃ³n > Literatura Mundial](#) #1551 in [Books > Libros en espaÃ±ol > No-FicciÃ³n > EducaciÃ³n > Referencia](#)

Customer Reviews

This fascinating novel is based upon the true (and famous) story of a native of Tierra del Fuego known to the English as "Jemmy Button." He was a Yamana Native American who, along with two other natives, was taken by Captain Robert Fitzroy from the Yamanas' home at the tip of South America and transported aboard the Beagle to England, where the Yamanas were educated and instructed in the ways of British culture and language. They eventually became celebrities, meeting and impressing the royal family. Button was later returned to Tierra del Fuego by FitzRoy (this time on the voyage of the Beagle that included a young naturalist named Charles Darwin). The Yamanas were left in Tierra del Fuego with materials to construct an English house, as well as utensils and other items of European domestic life; and with the expectation that these properly instructed savages would serve as a vanguard for the expansion of British civilization in their remote

land. Instead, the house-building materials quickly fell to ruin, and the "civilized" Yamanas eventually became involved in an armed conflict with English missionaries. The resulting trial of Button in the Falkland Islands serves as the focus of this story, which is told through the eyes of a fictional Argentine, John William Guevara - a man who carries the name of his criolla mother, rather than his English father.

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