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## **Dancing with the Devil: Society and Cultural Poetics in Mexican-American South Texas (New Directions in Anthropological Writing)**

*Jose Limon*

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**Jose Limon : Dancing with the Devil: Society and Cultural Poetics in Mexican-American South Texas (New Directions in Anthropological Writing)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dancing with the Devil: Society and Cultural Poetics in Mexican-American South Texas (New Directions in Anthropological Writing):

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Good work in the field of Anthropology By A Customer Jose Limon has a way of weaving a story into an anthropological study that brings the aspect of culture that he is studying to life. He keeps the reader interested by making the stories of his field work part of his studies. Anyone who is interested in learning about and understanding the life of Tejanos/Mexican-Americans in Texas should read this scholarly work.

Combining shrewd applications of current cultural theory with compelling autobiography and elegant prose, Jos E. Limn works at the intersection of anthropology, folklore, popular culture, history, and literary criticism. A native of South Texas, he renders a historical and ethnographic account of its rich Mexican-American folk culture. This folk culture, he shows whether expressed through male joking rituals, ballroom polka dances, folk healing, or eating and drinking traditions metaphorically dances with the devil, both resisting and accommodating the dominant culture of Texas. Critiquing the work of his precursors John Gregory Bourke, J. Frank Dobie, Jovita Gonzalez, and Americo Paredes Limn deftly demonstrates that their accounts of Mexican-Americans in South Texas contain race, class, and gender contradictions, revealed most clearly in their accounts of the folkloric figure of the devil. Limn's own field-based ethnography follows, and again the devil appears as a recurrent motif, signaling the ideological contradictions of folk practices in a South Texas on the verge of postmodernity.