

GIFT BOOKS 101

Tomes for the Holidays: Every Picture Tells a Tale

By Julia Ewan

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Page P02

* “¡Viva Colores!” (Power-House Books, \$39.95, 151 pp.)

Paola Gianturco and David Hill gave their book an appropriately exuberant title, but they easily could have named it also for the most compelling aspect of Gianturco’s vivid photos, the smiles. Nearly every human face depicted is shown smiling: proudly, shyly, coyly or confidently. As to the “colors” of the title, they are unsubtle, with few pastels or nuanced shades. Rather, they are vivid, primary colors, their boldness matching the positive attitudes of the people the authors selected as Guatemalan everyday heroes.



Gianturco focuses a lot on fabrics: blankets on a clothesline, a tasseled hammock, a striped tablecloth. And the bright clothing of those smiling, positive people: A beaming woman pedals a discarded bicycle rigged to power the village pump; an infant peers over her mother’s shoulder. It’s impossible not to smile back.