

### Chistes: Hispanic Humor of Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado (English and Spanish Edition)

Nasario García



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"When I moved to northern New Mexico thirty-three years ago," writes John Nichols, "I immediately fell in with my neighbors and commenced laughing." As folklorist Nasario García explains in his introduction to this collection, falling in with the voices of laughter and comic relief is a timeless, vital aspect of Hispanic culture. *¡Chistes!* brings together for the first time in English and regional Spanish a medley of orally gathered humorous anecdotes from northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. The chistes range in form from practical jokes, pranks, slips-of-the-tongue, hyperbole, solecisms, slapstick, and double entendres. True for most of the villages and towns represented in this collection, Hispanic humor is a function of folks who understand how to deal with difficult times with verve and at times self-deprecation, places with a strong communal identification, where everyone knows everybody's business and tells it with good-natured fun; where nothing is off limits, not even the church; where local politics takes it on the chin and farm animals provide the punch. The original Spanish versions of these tales are particularly flavorful for their colorful vernacular found uniquely in the region covered.

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