

*Praying and Preying* offers a rare look at the Christian experience of contemporary Amazonian indigenous peoples, focusing on the relationship between the inhabitants of Brazilian Amazonia known as the Wari' and the Evangelical missionaries of the New Tribes Mission. Aparecida Vilaça turns to a vast range of historical, ethnographic, and mythological material, as well as her own ethnographic field notes from her more than thirty-year involvement with the Wari' community. Developing a close dialogue between the Melanesian literature and the concepts and theories deriving from Amazonian ethnology, Vilaça provides a fine-grained analysis of the equivocations and paradoxes that underlie translation processes and of the ways in which these ambiguous renderings transform native notions of personhood.

"This volume is an outstanding model of how ethnography and theory can illuminate each other. Drawing on a sophisticated command of anthropology's central debates and decades of careful research with the Wari', Vilaça's masterful discussion is a real gem."

—WEBB KEANE, author of *Christian Moderns: Freedom and Fetish in the Mission Encounter*

"This book will be a milestone in the long journey anthropology has made in the company of people facing vast changes in their lives. Vilaça brings a new level of probing of the Christian practice. Frankly and lucidly written, this is a superb testimony to the openness of first-hand inquiry."

—MARILYN STRATHERN, University of Cambridge

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