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Saving the World

By Julia Alvarez

ALGONQUIN BOOKS OF CHAPEL HILL, United States, 2007. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 201 x 137 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Latina novelist Alma Huebner is suffering from writer s block and is years past the completion date for yet another of her bestselling family sagas. Her husband, Richard, works for a humanitarian organization dedicated to the health and prosperity of developing countries and wants her help on an extended AIDS assignment in the Dominican Republic. But Alma begs off joining him: the publisher is breathing down her neck. She promises to work hard and follow him a bit later. The truth is that Alma is seriously sidetracked by a story she has stumbled across. It s the story of a much earlier medical do-gooder, Spaniard Francisco Xavier Balmis, who in 1803 undertook to vaccinate the populations of Spain s American colonies against smallpox. To do this, he required live carriers of the vaccine. Of greater interest to Alma is Isabel Sendales y Gomez, director of La Casa de Expositos, who was asked to select twenty-two orphan boys to be the vaccine carriers. She agreed with the stipulation that she would accompany the boys on the proposed two-year...



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