

HANNELORE VANDENBUSSCHE

HUMAN PLAYGROUND

Why We Play

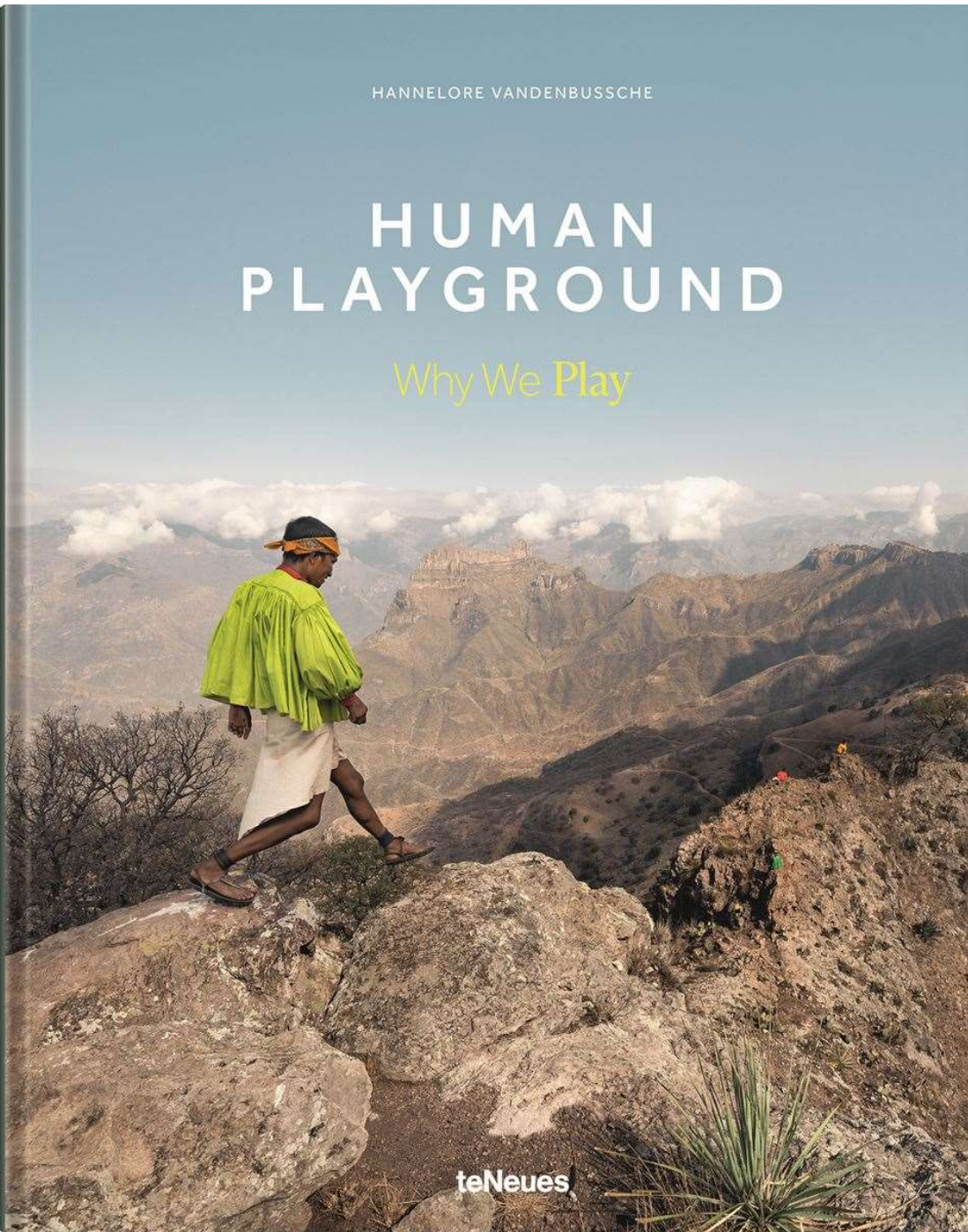
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CHILD'S PLAY ON DANGEROUS GROUND

Am

Kite Fighting

BRAZIL

The need to play prevails as boys cling to their vanishing innocence, dreaming of a better life.

Glimmering like a gemstone between lush green mountains, a brilliant blue ocean and miles of golden beaches lies the Cidade Maravilhosa - The Wonderful City of Rio de Janeiro. Travellers, poets, musicians and artists agree it is the most beautiful place in the world. The vibrant, visual feast of a city is the playground where children from the congested favelas (shanty towns) stretch their arms out towards the sky, like the omnipresent Cristo Redentor, to participate in their season of hope - playful and perilous kite fighting.

The urge to spread our wings and soar above the ground is a fascination that goes as far back as 400 B.C. China, where kites were said to have been invented. History is full of individuals, like Leonardo da Vinci and the Wright brothers, whose sense of curiosity propelled them to reach for the skies with aerodynamic inventions. Yet the kite remains an everlasting form of aviation and nowhere is kite-flying more alive than in the pulsating city of Rio.









The *escaramusa* is the female charrelito, where women ride side-saddle, performing carefully choreographed tasks in their traditional dresses.



