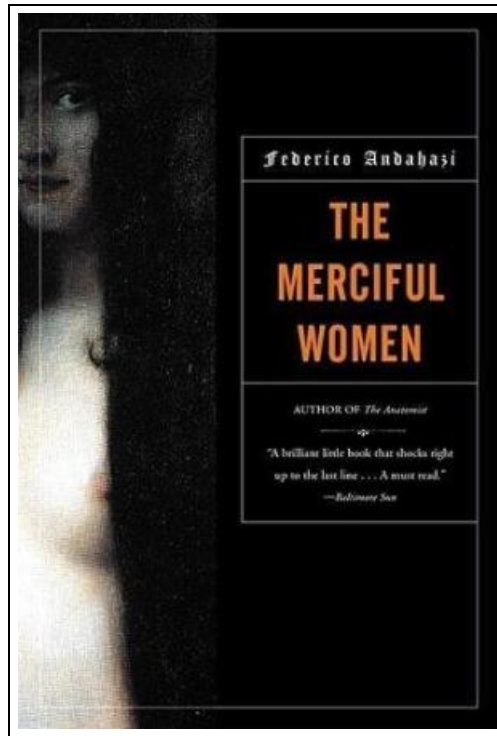


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Grove Press / Atlantic Monthly Press, United States, 2002. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . Brand New Book. The second novel from the best-selling Argentine author of *The Anatomist*, *The Merciful Women* is a brilliant retelling of the birth of the Gothic novel. In the summer of 1816, Percy and Mary Shelley, Mary's sister, and Lord Byron hid themselves away in a Swiss villa, whiling away rainy afternoons with the Gothic novel contest that would produce *Frankenstein*. Andahazi's reimagining focuses on the fifth competitor: John Polidori, Byron's manservant, a talentless hack resentful of the ease of his master's life. Through a Faustian pact with an unseen intercessant, Polidori obtains the most compelling vampire story ever written. But *The Vampyre* has striking similarities to Polidori's benefactor and to what she asks of him in return. Opium, erotica, and decadence meld into a sly and stylish novel about literary ambition, talent, and inspiration. A hoot . a Voltaire-like skewering of the myth of genius. Andahazi can remind you of vintage Terry Southern. -- Richard Wallace, *The Seattle Times* Playful, satiric, erotic, sometimes savage, sometimes slapstick . something completely different, and well worth reading. -- *San Francisco Chronicle* As a piece of mock-scholarly, wickedly ironic entertainment, it is an utter delight. -- *Publishers Weekly* This literary tour de force cum vampire tale will leave the reader gasping-from laughter and horror by turns. -- *The Baltimore Sun*.

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