

# *Four And Twenty Photos*

IN HIS NEW BOOK, *FOUR AND TWENTY PHOTOGRAPHS*, NEW MEXICO PHOTOGRAPHER CRAIG VARJABEDIAN TELLS THE STORIES BEHIND HIS FAVORITE IMAGES.



*Moonrise Over Penitente Morada. Dusk, late autumn, New Mexico, 1991.*



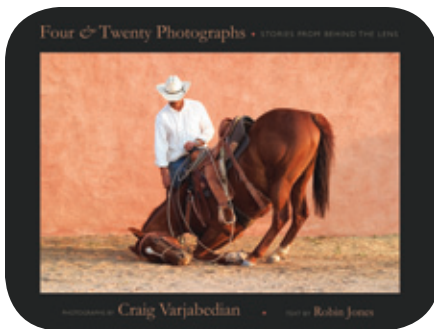
**Archie West and Buddy. San Marcos, New Mexico, 2001.**

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**S**ometimes, to find a photograph (or for a photograph to find me) I get in my truck and drive. I follow the light and wait to see where it will take me. That's how I found Cañoncito at Apache Canyon and that's how I found this *morada*.

On a wintry day in April, I was driving into a small village north of Santa Fe. The road wound up and around a cluster of houses and brought me to the top of a hill overlooking the village and its fields. There I saw a building that I later learned was a *Penitente morada*. [The worship house] was a large, simple, solid edifice, emitting a power and a presence. Three crosses stood beside it. A bell topped the roof, exposed to the elements. I sat quietly and let the stillness absorb me. I fell into a meditative state in which emotion seemed to take over perception. U

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**FOUR AND TWENTY PHOTOGRAPHS**

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