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The World and the Word: Tales and Observations from the Xhosa Oral Tradition

By Nongenile Masithathu Zenani, Harold Scheub, Harold Scheub

University of Wisconsin Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The World and the Word: Tales and Observations from the Xhosa Oral Tradition, Nongenile Masithathu Zenani, Harold Scheub, Harold Scheub, A master storyteller of the Xhosa people of South Africa, Nongenile Masithathu Zenani gives us an unprecedented view of an oral society from within. 24 of her tales about birth, puberty, marriage, and work, as told to the renowned collector of African oral tradition, Harold Scheub, are gathered here. Accompanying the stories are Zenani's detailed commentaries and analyses with Scheub's striking photographs of her in performance. The text gives a combination of historical and cultural observations with a symbolic collection of tales from a single traditional storyteller. The author presents to us the entire world of the the Xhosa people, how they first came to be, the origins of their customs, how they order their world and deal with transgressors, how they manage all of life's transitions from birth to death. She depicts both the world as it exists and as it is shaped in the words of the storyteller. Inheriting tales from the Xhosa tradition, Zenani has transformed them into imaginative new stories marked by her artistry. Scheub's introduction...



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