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Himba: Nomads Of Namibia



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Customer Reviews

I am a Belgian anthropologist who lived for two years in what is supposed to be one of the most remote regions in the world. Unfortunately, this book does its utter best to emphasise this impression. It creates an exoticising and eroticising image of Himba culture by the way it represents and quite literally pictures their nomadic life-style, their body-dress and their daily life. Going through it only makes me mad and sad at the same time. May be it is because the photographers are specialised in portraying wildlife. Anyway, it creates a picture of life in Himbaland that is more congruent with the international tourist market than it is with the views, knowledge, power and tradition of the OvaHimba themselves.

I must profoundly disagree with the Belgian anthropologist, who claims to know a lot about the Himba's in Kaokaveld in north west Namibia. I have spent since 2003 several weeks with the Himba and this book is very helpful for people who do not yet know what Himba's are. The photo's in this book clearly show how these tribe people are living, how their costumes and jewelry look like, what their past was and how their future is clouded by the Ovambo government. Like all tribal people in the world, the Himba's need to find answers to influences from the outside onto their lifestyle. They have to fight alcoholism and drugs abuse, but we should give them time. Most of all, they need support from their own government so that they are able to live the lives they want.

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