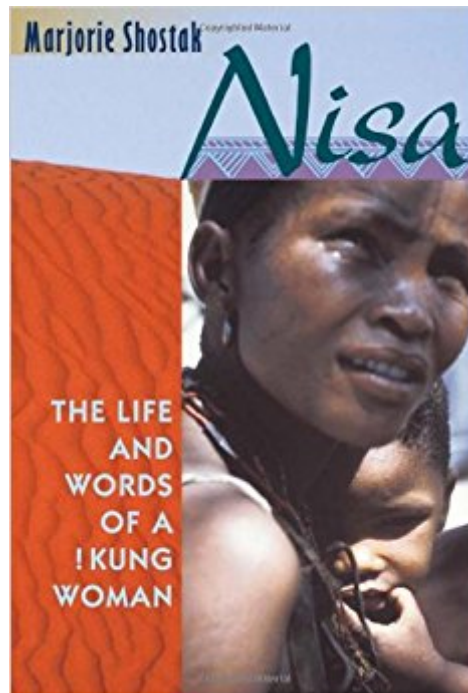




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# Nisa: The Life And Words Of A !Kung Woman



## Synopsis

This classic paperback is available once againâ •and exclusivelyâ •from Harvard University Press. This book is the story of the life of Nisa, a member of the !Kung tribe of hunter-gatherers from southern Africaâ™s Kalahari desert. Told in her own wordsâ •earthy, emotional, vividâ •to Marjorie Shostak, a Harvard anthropologist who succeeded, with Nisaâ™s collaboration, in breaking through the immense barriers of language and culture, the story is a fascinating view of a remarkable woman.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When I reread Nisa, as I have done regularly in teaching over the years, I experience its originality, poignancy, and excitement afresh each time. Few books that were so influential in changing the look and feel of ethnography for entire generations of anthropologists have held up so well. It is a classic, with currency and continuing possibility. (George Marcus, Professor of Anthropology, Rice University)[A] scrupulous, sad, exciting book. (New York Times)We have a remarkable anthropologist to thank for an absorbing account. (New York Review of Books)Both Nisa and Shostak are unusual people, and their collaboration has resulted in an unparalleled account of !Kung life from a personal rather than social or ecological perspective. Even more important, their work results in a revelation of the universality of women's experiences and feelings despite vast differences in culture and society. Nisa helps us know what it means to be !Kung, to be a woman, and finally, to be human. (Choice)Nisa is a humbling and inspiring book. (Tim Jeal Wall Street Journal 2012-09-08)

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This book is so beautiful and enriching. The seller I received this from was also very reliable. The product came on time, well-packaged, and secured. This book is very insightful and allows you re-evaluate how you see other cultures outside of your own world.

i loved 'nisa'. i've read a lot of books in my life - in four different languages, all kinds of topics, in recent years mostly scientific ones. with this i mean to say, it was not easy for 'nisa' to break into top five of all the books for me.but it happened.'nisa' changes the way you feel like a women: about men, about raising childrean, about life in general.'nisa' puts things in a different perspective. in the perspective in which we have spent 99% of our time on earth, so i think it is OK if i call it 'right perspective'. thank you marjorie shostak, i am sad that you died, but hope your book and your scientific papers will live forever.

Purchased this book for an anthropology class. It was one of the better books that I've read this last quarter, if not my career as a student. On the other hand, if you are not interested in different cultures, there is nothing wrong with that, then you will not like this book. It is best to read this book with an open mind and try your best not to be ethnocentric. Meaning that certain topics of the book are taboo in our culture, but it is accepted in their culture. According to this book, the !Kung from Botswana live a very interesting and different [to our own] lives. Majorie Shostak did a great job writing this ethnography, and really capturing the voice of "Nisa". Recommended for the person who likes traveling to learn and understand culture.

This book was a requirement for a class, however it was a great read, and an insight into this culture and its way of life. Highly recommend

*Nisa* talks a great deal, but somehow the inner life of the !Kung is never revealed. A trance state is referred to throughout the book, but what does it feel like when one is "trancing"? One dies and

goes to some indeterminate place "up there"? I realize it is impossible for a European to live like a !Kung among the !Kung because of the wide economic disparities and the tradition of gift exchange (among the many problems the author acknowledges right from the start of the book) but a deeper look into their interior life would have been welcomed. Despite Nisa's stilted language, which may be the fault of the translator, there is much to learn here.

I love the quality of the book it was a perfect compact size compared to the other ones I had seen in class. Coupled with easy to read pages, it is also really great content for my class.

This book was an eye opener on so many different levels. As a woman, being privy to the manner in which women in other cultures live was simply shocking. From an anthropological perspective the effects of globalization and westernization was heartbreaking to say the least. And as a human being, it helped bring back into light the fact that although we are all different we are all the same. Please take the time to read and enjoy this beautiful ethnography.

interesting book. slightly boring at times but it's really cool to see how other societies live

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