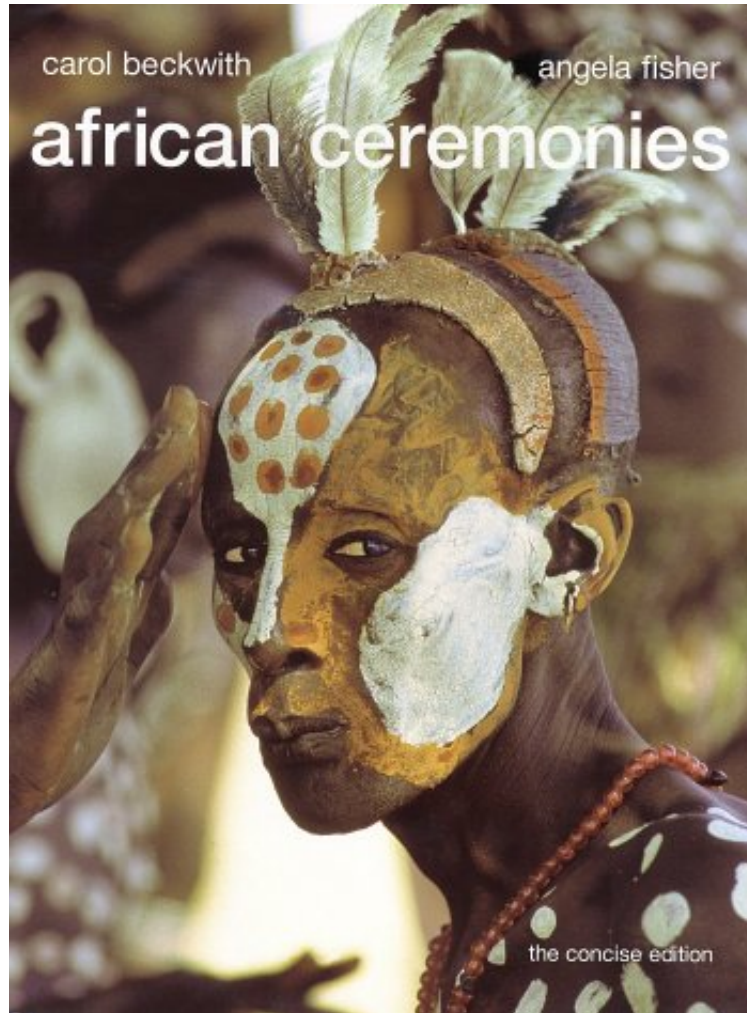


(Library ebook) African Ceremonies: The Concise Edition

African Ceremonies: The Concise Edition

Carol Beckwith, Angela Fisher
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Carol Beckwith, Angela Fisher : African Ceremonies: The Concise Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised African Ceremonies: The Concise Edition:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Alien ArtBy Charles CameronThe photos in this massive volume are so intensely colorful and otherworldly that they seem to have been taken on another planet. The rituals, celebrations, and rites of passage represented here are somewhat familiar but their genesis is as distant as the origins of man. Primal images, vibrant colors, and intense facial expressions seem to transport the viewer into a parallel universe.I wouldn't ordinarily spend so much time just staring at hundreds of pictures in a book, but the size and clarity and vibrancy of these images is such a treat for the eyes and an inspiration for the creative mind that I couldn't put them away. All photography books should be this well printed and produced.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Beautiful, Vibrant, Worth It By VipGreat 2 volume set of photographs you will want to flip through again and again. It's heavy -- but a great addition to your collection of photo books or coffee table. There are some pretty graphic ceremony scenes that are jarring at first but only adds to the allure of its authenticity. If you are interested in different African cultures around the continent, beautiful ceremonial garb and the excitement of many of these rituals, this is for you. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Helmut Hampe Human imagination is infinite and here it is fantastically recorded

An accessible single-volume edition of the previous two-volume work contains more than half of the photography from the original format as well as new images, in a work that celebrates vanishing cultural rituals and features an audio CD of African ceremonies.

.com By a recent count, the continent of Africa comprises some 1,300 cultures. Some of them number millions of people, some only a few families; some are thriving, while others are in danger of disappearing, the victims of acculturation or, in extreme cases, of genocide. This diversity--and the dangers to it--is little known outside Africa. Photographers Carol Beckwith and Angela Fisher highlight both matters in *African Ceremonies*, an extraordinary two-volume collection of some 850 full-color images. The two artists have traveled to almost all the continent's 53 countries in the last three decades, documenting traditional tribal life in earlier books and articles for *National Geographic*, among other publications. Here they focus on the religious customs of several dozen peoples, combining stunning images with well-written essays to illustrate the enduring power of traditional beliefs. Among the book's finest moments are a record of the Fulani cattle crossing, when for 10 days young males drive their herds across the wide Niger River to receive gifts from their grateful compatriots; a sequence showing a healing ceremony of the Himba people of Namibia and Angola, whose "wild women," possessed by lion spirits, are riveting actors on the page; and a remarkable series of photographs of Wodaabe courtship dancers, who compete to attract wives by charming them with exaggerated smiles and the skilled use of cosmetics. The authors note that, as women, they entered places men never could--and as foreigners, they were also often welcomed as "honorary males" and allowed to witness male-only ceremonies. Many of these rites are in danger of extinction as old ways are forgotten and in some cases suppressed. Beckwith and Fisher have captured them before it's too late. Beautifully designed and manufactured, *African Ceremonies* makes a fine companion to Henry Louis Gates Jr.'s *Wonders of the African World*, and invites leisurely reading--and constant revisiting. --Gregory McNamee From *Publishers Weekly* Beckwith and Fisher, two western photographers (the former American, the latter Australian) fascinated by the rituals of Africa, spent 10 years traveling the continent to document their passion on film for the first edition of this stunning book. In 1999, it was released in a slip-cased, \$150, two-volume edition; it featured 850 images of the various namings, initiations, weddings and coronations the women witnessed during their travels, as well as countless other moments of consequence with their generous hosts. Now comes the concise edition, which boasts more than half the original collection assembled in a single, large, full-color book and accompanied by a CD of ceremonial African music by composer David Bradnum. The images are bright, intimate and genuinely exotic, and they speak to a diversity of fascinating and wildly inventive rituals. From the Pedi people's beadwork to the Do-society's shaggy raffia outfits, the images capture a multitude of beautiful costumes on beautiful people, celebrating their life cycles from birth to death. For those interested in the tribal cultures of Africa, this would be a tough volume to miss. Over 400 color photographs Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal* A spectacular visual record of traditional rituals, this is perhaps the ultimate coffee-table book on African cultures. Renowned photographers Beckwith (*Nomads of Niger*) and Fisher (*Africa Adorned*) organize the chapters in the first volume by life-cycle rituals--birth, marriage, and death--an arrangement that doesn't work as well for the second volume, which functions more as a collection of miscellany. Each chapter consists of introductory text and a half-dozen or so photo essays featuring rituals in specific cultures from all regions of Africa. As in the best *National Geographic* articles, the text is brief, well written, and clearly aimed at a general audience (as are the extensive photo captions). But, unquestionably, it is the excellent color photos that make these volumes valuable to lay reader and scholar alike, especially because many of these rituals may soon disappear from a changing Africa. Highly recommended for both public and academic libraries. -Eugene C. Burt, Seattle Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.