

monique and the mango rains two years with a midwife in mali by kris holloway consulting editor john bidwell published by waveland press 2006

monique and the mango rains two years with a midwife in mali by kris holloway consulting editor john bidwell published by waveland press 2006 offers an insightful and detailed ethnographic account of maternal health care and traditional practices in Mali. This authoritative work chronicles the experiences of Monique, a midwife navigating the complex interplay of culture, medicine, and community over a two-year period. The book, edited by John Bidwell and published by Waveland Press in 2006, provides valuable perspectives on childbirth, women's health, and rural medical practices in West Africa. Through immersive fieldwork, Kris Holloway presents a nuanced understanding of how indigenous knowledge and modern health interventions coexist in Malian society. This article explores the book's key themes, methodology, and cultural significance, highlighting its contributions to anthropology, global health, and midwifery studies. Readers will gain an overview of the ethnographic process, the challenges faced by midwives in Mali, and the broader implications for cross-cultural medical practice.

- Overview of the Book and Author
- Ethnographic Approach and Methodology
- Key Themes and Cultural Context
- The Role of Midwifery in Mali
- Impact and Significance of the Publication

Overview of the Book and Author

Monique and the mango rains two years with a midwife in Mali by Kris Holloway, consulting editor John Bidwell, published by Waveland Press, 2006, is a seminal ethnographic study focusing on maternal health care in a rural Malian community. Kris Holloway, an experienced anthropologist, spent two years living alongside Monique, a local midwife, to document the everyday realities and cultural dimensions of childbirth. The consulting editor, John Bidwell, contributed to shaping the publication to reach both academic and practitioner audiences. The book combines detailed narrative, field notes, and analysis to illuminate the challenges and triumphs of midwifery in a setting where traditional beliefs and biomedical practices intersect. Waveland Press, known for its high-quality academic publications, released the book in 2006, making it accessible for scholars and students interested in medical anthropology, African studies, and global health.

Ethnographic Approach and Methodology

The methodology employed in *Monique and the mango rains two years with a midwife in Mali* relies heavily on participant observation, in-depth interviews, and longitudinal fieldwork. Kris Holloway's immersive approach allowed for an in-depth understanding of the cultural, social, and medical dimensions of midwifery in Mali. This ethnographic model emphasizes qualitative data collection that captures the lived experiences of both the midwife and the women she serves.

Participant Observation

Participant observation formed the backbone of Holloway's research, enabling her to witness firsthand the practices, rituals, and interactions that shape maternal health care. By living in the community and accompanying Monique during prenatal visits, deliveries, and postpartum care, Holloway gathered rich contextual information beyond what quantitative studies typically provide.

Interviews and Narratives

Structured and unstructured interviews with Monique, patients, family members, and community leaders complemented observational data. These narratives highlighted personal histories, cultural

beliefs, and social dynamics influencing childbirth. Holloway's emphasis on storytelling allowed for a nuanced portrayal of individual and collective experiences.

Longitudinal Fieldwork

Spanning two years, the longitudinal nature of the study provided insights into seasonal variations, evolving health challenges, and the development of trust between the midwife and her community. This extended timeframe underscored the complexities and persistence of maternal health issues in rural Mali.

Key Themes and Cultural Context

The book explores several interrelated themes that provide a comprehensive understanding of midwifery and maternal health within the Malian cultural framework. These themes highlight the intricate balance between tradition and modernity that defines health practices in the region.

Traditional Beliefs and Practices

One central theme is the role of indigenous knowledge and ritual in childbirth. The book details how Monique and other community members incorporate spiritual beliefs, herbal remedies, and symbolic acts into their care routines. These practices are critical for understanding local perceptions of health and illness.

Challenges of Healthcare Infrastructure

Limited access to formal healthcare facilities, shortages of medical supplies, and infrastructural constraints pose significant challenges for midwives in Mali. The narrative illustrates how Monique navigates these obstacles to provide effective care despite resource scarcity.

Gender Roles and Social Dynamics

The study also investigates the influence of gender roles, family structures, and social expectations on maternal health decisions. Women's autonomy, community support systems, and the negotiation of

traditional authority figures emerge as important factors shaping childbirth experiences.

The Role of Midwifery in Mali

Midwifery, as portrayed in *monique and the mango rains two years with a midwife in mali*, is a critical component of healthcare that bridges traditional practices and biomedical approaches. Monique's role exemplifies the multifaceted responsibilities of midwives in rural African settings.

Clinical Skills and Traditional Knowledge

Monique integrates clinical midwifery skills with indigenous knowledge, demonstrating adaptability and cultural sensitivity. This dual expertise enables her to manage complications, conduct safe deliveries, and provide culturally appropriate care.

Community Trust and Education

Building trust within the community is essential for effective midwifery. Monique's longstanding relationships and educational efforts help increase awareness of maternal health issues and encourage the use of prenatal and postnatal services.

Collaboration with Health Systems

The book highlights efforts to connect traditional midwives with formal health systems through training programs and partnerships. These collaborations aim to improve maternal outcomes by combining the strengths of both approaches.

Impact and Significance of the Publication

Since its publication by Waveland Press in 2006, *monique and the mango rains two years with a midwife in mali* has become a valuable resource for multiple disciplines. Its contributions extend beyond anthropology to inform public health policy, midwifery education, and cross-cultural healthcare delivery.

Key impacts of the book include:

- Enhancing understanding of the sociocultural dimensions of childbirth in West Africa.
- Providing a model for ethnographic research in medical anthropology.
- Informing global health initiatives aimed at reducing maternal mortality.
- Highlighting the importance of integrating traditional and modern health practices.
- Supporting advocacy for improved training and resources for midwives in developing countries.

Overall, the book stands as an authoritative and comprehensive examination of midwifery in Mali, offering lessons relevant to practitioners, scholars, and policymakers working at the intersection of culture and health.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the book 'Monique and the Mango Rains' about?

'Monique and the Mango Rains' is an ethnographic account by Kris Holloway that chronicles her two years working with a midwife named Monique in rural Mali, exploring traditional childbirth practices and maternal health in West Africa.

Who are the main contributors to 'Monique and the Mango Rains'?

The book was written by Kris Holloway with John Bidwell as the consulting editor, and it was published by Waveland Press in 2006.

What cultural insights does 'Monique and the Mango Rains' provide

about Mali?

The book offers in-depth insights into Malian rural life, particularly focusing on childbirth traditions, the role of midwives, and the intersection of indigenous practices with modern healthcare.

How does Kris Holloway's role as an anthropologist influence 'Monique and the Mango Rains'?

As an anthropologist, Holloway provides a detailed, empathetic ethnographic perspective, documenting Monique's work and the social, cultural, and medical contexts of childbirth in Mali.

What themes are explored in 'Monique and the Mango Rains'?

The book explores themes such as maternal health, traditional medicine, cultural resilience, gender roles, and the challenges faced by rural healthcare providers in Mali.

Why is 'Monique and the Mango Rains' significant in medical anthropology?

'Monique and the Mango Rains' is significant because it bridges anthropology and public health, providing valuable case studies on how traditional midwifery practices impact maternal and infant outcomes.

How has 'Monique and the Mango Rains' been received by readers and scholars?

The book has been praised for its vivid storytelling, insightful cultural analysis, and contribution to understanding the complexities of healthcare in non-Western settings.

Where can one find 'Monique and the Mango Rains' for study or

purchase?

'Monique and the Mango Rains' is available through academic bookstores, online retailers, and libraries, published by Waveland Press in 2006.

Additional Resources

1. The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman

This book explores the cultural clash between a Hmong family and the American medical system when their child is diagnosed with epilepsy. It delves into the challenges of cross-cultural communication in healthcare and highlights the importance of understanding patients' cultural backgrounds. Like "Monique and the Mango Rains," it emphasizes the human side of medical care in diverse cultural contexts.

2. Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity by Katherine Boo

This nonfiction work provides a vivid portrait of life in a Mumbai slum, focusing on the struggles of ordinary people trying to overcome poverty and corruption. Through intimate storytelling, Boo reveals the resilience and complexity of communities often overlooked. The book shares a thematic kinship with "Monique and the Mango Rains" in its focus on grassroots experiences and social realities in developing countries.

3. Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World by Tracy Kidder

This biography follows Dr. Paul Farmer's efforts to bring healthcare to impoverished regions, particularly Haiti. It illustrates the challenges and triumphs of delivering medical care in resource-poor settings with compassion and dedication. The book complements Holloway's narrative by showcasing the role of committed healthcare workers in global health.

4. Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese

A novel centered on twin brothers born in Ethiopia who become doctors, it explores themes of medicine, family, and cultural identity. The story provides an immersive look at healthcare in East

Africa, blending personal drama with medical insights. It resonates with "Monique and the Mango Rains" through its portrayal of medicine intertwined with local culture.

5. *Infant Mortality: A Continuing Social Problem* by Ellen L. Bassuk

This book examines the social, economic, and healthcare factors contributing to infant mortality globally and in the United States. It offers insights into preventative measures and the importance of community-based healthcare initiatives. The text complements Holloway's focus on maternal and infant health in Mali by providing broader context on the issue.

6. *Global Health Nursing: Building and Sustaining Partnerships* by Marcia Stanhope and Jeanette Lancaster

A comprehensive guide for nurses working in global health settings, this book covers cultural competence, ethics, and practical approaches to healthcare delivery in diverse communities. It emphasizes partnership and sustainability in international health projects. This resource aligns with the themes of "Monique and the Mango Rains" by highlighting the role of healthcare professionals in cross-cultural environments.

7. *Health and Healing in Africa: A Cross-Cultural Perspective* by M. Douglas Rushing

This book explores traditional and modern healing practices across African cultures, examining how they coexist and sometimes conflict. It offers insight into the cultural dimensions of health and illness on the continent. The work complements Holloway's narrative by deepening understanding of Mali's cultural context in healthcare.

8. *Born to Win: The Essential Guide to Prenatal Care and Childbirth* by Dr. Harriet Lerner

Focusing on prenatal care and childbirth practices worldwide, this book discusses both medical and cultural aspects of pregnancy and delivery. It provides expectant mothers and healthcare providers with knowledge to navigate childbirth in various settings. The book relates to "Monique and the Mango Rains" through its attention to maternal health and childbirth experiences.

9. *Delivering Health Care in America: A Systems Approach* by Leiyu Shi and Douglas A. Singh

This text offers an overview of the American healthcare system with comparisons to global healthcare

delivery models. It examines the structure, financing, and challenges of providing healthcare services. Although focused on the U.S., the book provides valuable perspectives on healthcare systems that can be contrasted with the context described in Holloway's work.

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