



Never Marry a Woman with Big Feet

By Mineke Schipper



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In cultures all over the globe, sex and gender issues have been expressed in proverbs, the world's smallest literary genre. This fascinating book provides revealing insights into the female condition across centuries and continents, as recorded in thousands of vivid and earthy proverbs about women. Mineke Schipper analyses similarities, differences, and contradictions in the cultural norms about gender expressed in thousands of proverbs she has found from over 150 countries. Grouping the sayings into such categories as the female body, love, sex, childbirth, and female power, she finds shared patterns in ideas about women (and how men see them). Part cross-cultural study, part literary criticism, and part anthology, her book is a unique and intriguing resource to dip into again and again.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The proverb—"the world's smallest literary genre"—is a terse but telling cultural lesson, says literary studies professor Schipper. In this volume, part anthology and part cross-cultural analysis, she unveils the "inherited ideas of 'ideal' and 'deviant' womanhood" from more than 15,000 proverbs that she has collected over 15 years of world travel. Relying on both oral and written sources in 278 languages, she compares and contrasts global attitudes toward women and discovers a surprising nexus. Where women's bodies, beauty, gender role and image are concerned, the vast majority of world cultures (or the men in them, anyway) think alike. Pick any stereotype about women and one is bound to find a proverb in the book to confirm it, from the talkative nature of women ("A fish doesn't need to learn how to swim, a woman doesn't need to learn how to talk" - Ladino, Morocco) to the problems of mothers-in-law ("Who counts on his mother-in-law's soup, will go to sleep without dinner" - Creole, Dominican Republic). The author reminds us that proverbs do not always reflect reality, of course, but instead reveal "ideals, as well as regretted deviations from such ideals, as imagined by those whose interest they defend." The collection also confirms men and women's complex and interdependent relationship. Cross-culturally, men prefer women's company to loneliness ("Better a bad wife than an empty house" - Baule) and agree that in sex they must first please their partner for their own reward ("Stroke a cow before you milk her" - Hausa). This is an entertaining, adroit examination of how far woman has come in man's estimation, and how far she still has to go.

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Review

"A fine contribution to the cosmopolitan conversation that ought to come with globalization." K. Anthony Appiah, Princeton University"

From the Back Cover

"A fine contribution to the cosmopolitan conversation that ought to come with globalization."-K. Anthony Appiah, Princeton University

Users Review

From reader reviews:

William Martin:

This Never Marry a Woman with Big Feet book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is usually information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This specific Never Marry a Woman with Big Feet without we recognize teach the one who studying it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Never Marry a Woman with Big Feet can bring if you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even cell phone. This Never Marry a Woman with Big Feet having very good arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

Joseph Taylor:

The knowledge that you get from Never Marry a Woman with Big Feet is the more deep you searching the information that hide inside the words the more you get considering reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to comprehend but Never Marry a Woman with Big Feet giving you thrill feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in particular way that can be understood simply by anyone who read the item because the author of this reserve is well-known enough. That book also makes your vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go to you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having that Never Marry a Woman with Big Feet instantly.

Melvin Schroeder:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition info. Even you love Never Marry a Woman with Big Feet, it is possible to enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout men. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

Michael Clark:

Do you like reading a book? Confuse to looking for your chosen book? Or your book was rare? Why so many problem for the book? But any people feel that they enjoy to get reading. Some people likes reading, not only science book but novel and Never Marry a Woman with Big Feet or maybe others sources were given know-how for you. After you know how the truly great a book, you feel want to read more and more. Science book was created for teacher or maybe students especially. Those textbooks are helping them to add their knowledge. In various other case, beside science book, any other book likes Never Marry a Woman with Big Feet to make your spare time much more colorful. Many types of book like this.

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