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Impasse Of The Angels: Scenes From A Moroccan Space Of Memory



Synopsis

The image of the ethnographer in the field who observes his or her subjects from a distance while copiously taking notes has given way in recent years to a more critical and engaged form of anthropology. Composed as a polyphonic dialogue of texts, Stefania Pandolfo's *Impasse of the Angels* takes this engagement to its limit by presenting the relationship between observer and observed as one of interacting equals and mutually constituting interlocutors. *Impasse of the Angels* explores what it means to be a subject in the historical and poetic imagination of a southern Moroccan society. Passionate and lyrical, ironic and tragic, the book listens to dissonant, often idiosyncratic voices— "poetic texts, legends, social spaces, folktales, conversations"—which elaborate in their own ways the fractures, wounds, and contradictions of the Maghrib's postcolonial present. Moving from concrete details in a traditional ethnographic sense to a creative, experiential literary style, *Impasse of the Angels* is a tale of life and death compellingly addressing readers from anthropology, literature, philosophy, postcolonial criticism, and Middle Eastern studies.

Book Information

Paperback: 397 pages

Publisher: University of Chicago Press; First Edition edition (February 3, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0226645320

ISBN-13: 978-0226645322

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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