



Never Marry a Woman with Big Feet: Women in Proverbs from around the World

By Mineke Schipper

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In cultures throughout the world, sex and gender issues have been expressed in proverbs, the world's most concise literary genre. *Never Marry a Woman with Big Feet* provides revealing insights into the female condition across centuries and continents, as recorded in thousands of vivid and earthy proverbs about women.

Mineke Schipper explores the similarities, differences, and contradictions that coexist in cultural norms about gender from hundreds of languages and over 150 countries. Grouping the sayings into such categories as the female body, love, sex, childbirth, and female power, she finds stunning patterns in ideas about women—and men. This cross-cultural study and critical analysis of proverbs about women is a unique and intriguing resource to dip into again and again.

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

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Review

"No one who casually picks it up will be able to put it down, as gems of inspired sayings, bon mots, zany jokes, and insightful analyses leap out of every page."

(Wendy Doniger, University of Chicago 2006-05-01)

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About the Author

Mineke Schipper is professor of intercultural literary studies at the University of Leiden, the Netherlands. She is the author of many books, including *Imagining Insiders: Africa and the Question of Belonging*, and *Unheard Words: Women and Literature in Africa, the Arab World, Asia, the Caribbean, and Latin America*.

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