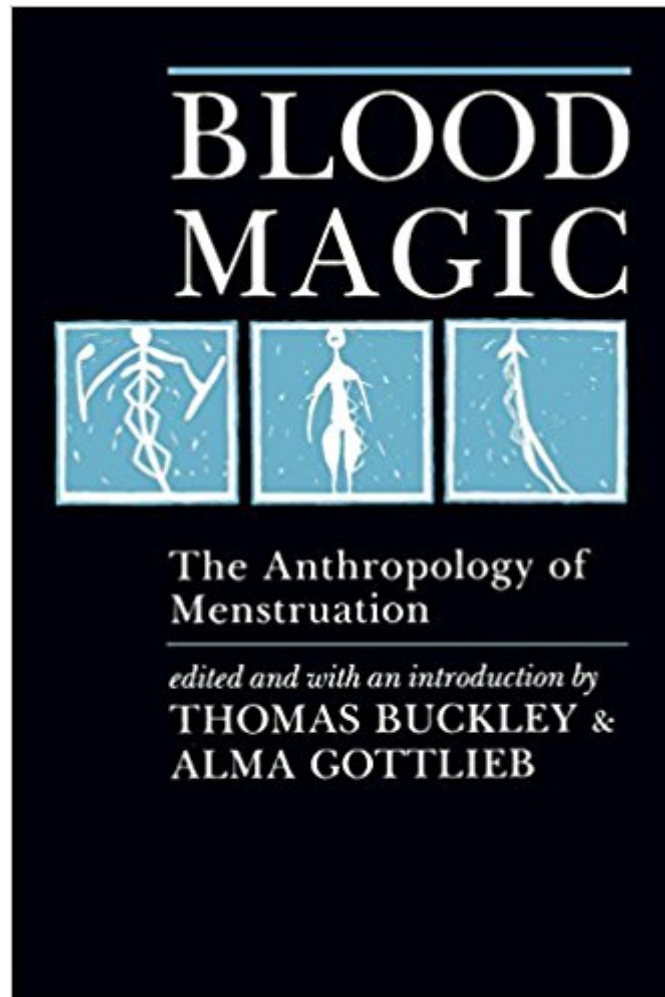


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Blood Magic: The Anthropology Of Menstruation



Synopsis

Examining cultures as diverse as long-house dwellers in North Borneo, African farmers, Welsh housewives, and postindustrial American workers, this volume dramatically redefines the anthropological study of menstrual customs. It challenges the widespread image of a universal "menstrual taboo" as well as the common assumption of universal female subordination which underlies it. Contributing important new material and perspectives to our understanding of comparative gender politics and symbolism, it is of particular importance to those interested in anthropology, women's studies, religion, and comparative health systems.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I first read this book 15 years ago, in the midst of writing a book about women roles in California Indian society. It brought so many things into sharper focus about other ways of seeing the world and our place in it. Everyone should be taught its lessons, that menstruation is not something to be ashamed of but to value, as an opportunity to give life, and to bond with nature and family. Imagine if women everywhere had Moontime retreats, that is, monthly meetings(not just furtive water-cooler chats) about our physical and emotional changes. And imagine having a positive body-image, as a girl, teenager, young adult, mother, daughter, and grandmother, not just able to cope, but ready to lead? Break the taboo, read it, talk about it; I dare you!

This is a very useful reference work for specialists and individuals with more than a passing interest

in the cultural meanings and uses of menstrual blood. The collection of articles contain references to many cultures and are written from a variety of theoretical vantages and can lead the motivated reader more deeply into the subject. It demonstrates the increasingly sophisticated approaches used by anthropologists to drawn back the curtain of ignorance and misunderstanding that have warped our understanding of this fundamental part of human life.

Interesting read, not quite related to interest area, but still arrived safely and promptly, in excellent condition. Recommend it to anyone interested in cross-cultural comparisons of how menstruation has been perceived.

Very important book. Bought used copy and quality was as described or better.

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