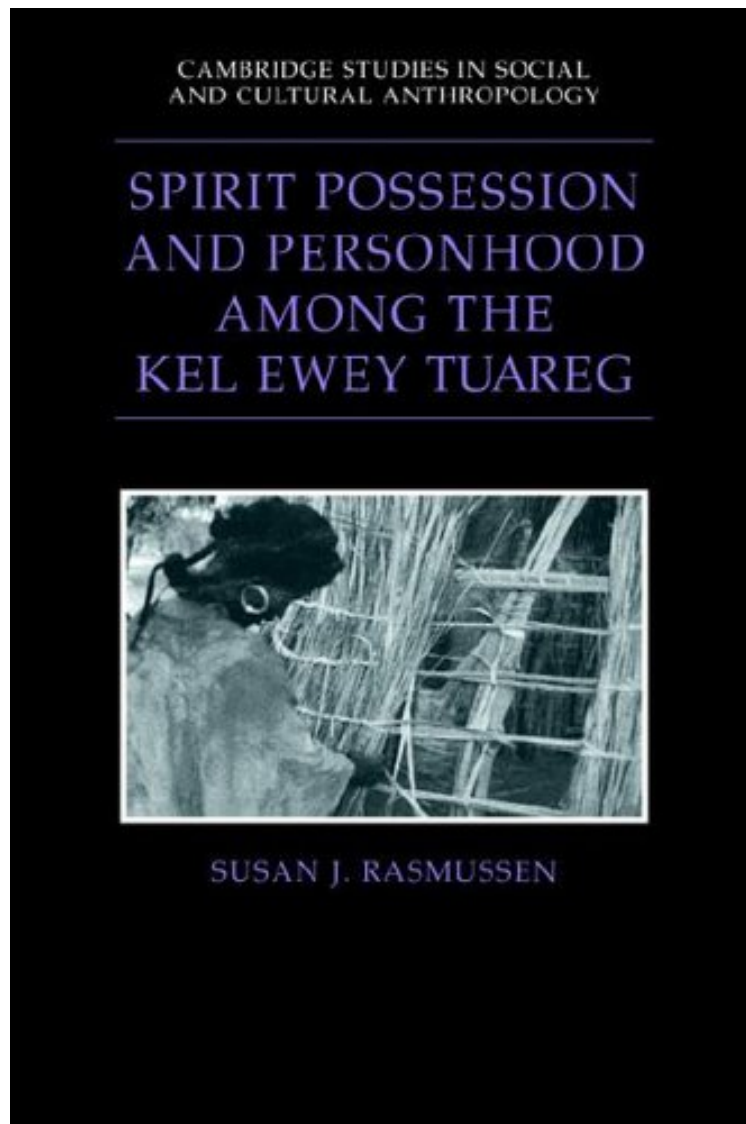


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## **Spirit Possession and Personhood among the Kel Ewey Tuareg (Cambridge Studies in Social and Cultural Anthropology)**

*Susan J. Rasmussen*

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**Susan J. Rasmussen : Spirit Possession and Personhood among the Kel Ewey Tuareg (Cambridge Studies in Social and Cultural Anthropology)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spirit Possession and Personhood among the Kel Ewey Tuareg (Cambridge Studies in Social and

Cultural Anthropology):

Among the Tuareg people in the Air Mountain region of Niger, women are sometimes possessed by spirits called 'the people of solitude'. The evening curing rituals of the possessed, featuring drumming and song, take place before an audience of young men and women, who joke and flirt as the ritual unfolds. In her analysis of this tolerated but unofficial cult, Susan Rasmussen analyses symbolism and aesthetic values, provides case studies of possessed women, and reviews what local people think about the meaning of possession.

"Rasmussen's study is detailed and nuanced, with thick ethnographic description, snippets of Tuareg poetry, and a fine exposition of music, dress, and other aesthetic dimensions of personal identity. ...Rasmussen's study of Tuareg identity, knowledge, and healings is important and satisfying." Choice "These two studies offer new, compelling work on spirit possession in Niger....In general, this is a strong piece of writing....this book is a potentially valuable tool for introducing some important concepts to undergraduate audiences." Lesly A. Sharp, American Anthropologist "Spirit Possession and Personhood Among the Kel Ewey Tuareg is both scholarly and enchanting; Rasmussen has provided a lucid description of a traditional healing paradigm that can serve as a model for future researchers and writers" American Journal of Clinical Hypnosis "The study reveals a sophisticated knowledge of the subject matter.... Rasmussen skillfully demonstrates how possession allows for the articulation of hidden agendas. ...the book is a must read for students of possession." Adeline Masquelier, Religious Studies From the Back Cover Among the Tuareg people in the Air Mountain region of Niger, women are sometimes possessed by spirits called "the people of solitude". The evening curing rituals of the possessed, featuring drumming and song, take place before an audience of young men and women, who joke and flirt as the ritual unfolds. In her analysis of this tolerated but unofficial cult, Susan Rasmussen analyses symbolism and aesthetic values, provides case studies of possessed women, and reviews what local people think about the meaning of possession.