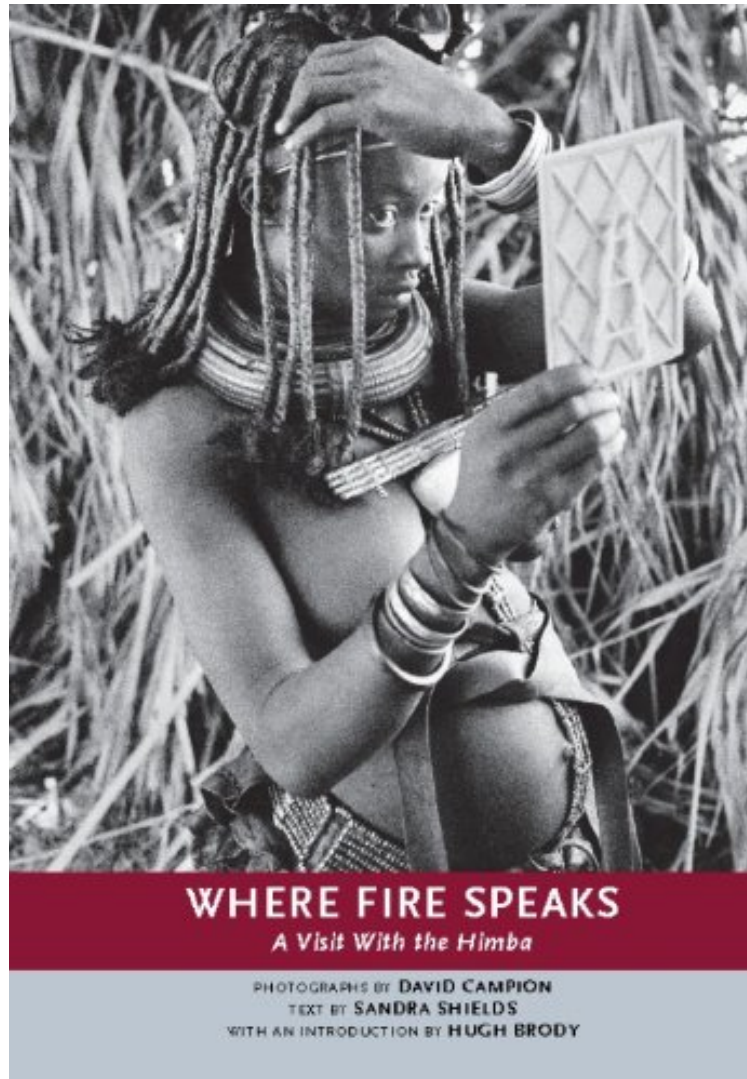


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## Where Fire Speaks: A Visit With the Himba (Parallax)

*Sandra Shields*

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**Sandra Shields : Where Fire Speaks: A Visit With the Himba (Parallax)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Where Fire Speaks: A Visit With the Himba (Parallax):

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. THE HIMBABy Preston Reeveswhere the fire speaks:This book both with text and photography does an excellent job in depicting the life and possible fate of the Himba. I found the book to be a good representation of reality. Shortly before reading the book I visited a Himba village and the problems mentioned by our guide were also outlined in this book.I recommend this little book to anyone interested in the native peoples of Africa.

On the wild river that divides Namibia from Angola, members of the Himba tribe herd cattle as they have done for

hundreds of years. But the world of the Himba sits in the shadow of third-world development and the inevitability of change that threatens their way of life; now, they are more likely to attend evangelical church services, congregate around the liquor truck, and pose for tourists' photographs. Sandra Shields and David Campion spent two months living with the Himba, and this book, a provocative melding of photography and narrative, tells of the profound changes in the lives of the Himba—both gradual and immediate—which echo those effecting indigenous people around the world. Includes more than one hundred black and white photographs. David Campion and Sandra Shields met in South Africa, married a year later, and have collaborated for over a decade. Sandra has written for publications including *Geist* and *The Globe and Mail*, and David's photographs have appeared in publications and exhibitions in Canada, Europe, and Africa. PHOTOGRAPHY + TEXT = PARALLAX Parallax, a new series of books from Arsenal Pulp Press, explore the far reaches of the modern world, proposing new perspectives on how we see ourselves through the eyes and the words of our most intriguing photographers and writers.

From Publishers Weekly Canadian journalist Shields and photographer Campion, funded by the International Center for Human Rights and Democratic Development, spent two months with the Himba people of northern Namibia. In the name of development, the Namibian government had been proposing a dam and hydroelectric plant on a nearby river, opposed by some vocal Himba as it would submerge an important grazing area for their livestock as well as certain tribal graves. Apart from the dam's specific impact, the project raised questions about the desirability of modernization: what do traditional cultures sacrifice by accepting electrification, land ownership registration and other aspects of "progress"? The Namibian government has suggested it might be a human rights offense not to offer electrification, and, as Shields and Campion soon discovered, Western tourists, fascinated by the "primitiveness" of the Himba, have already invaded with their Cokes and cameras. Himba tribespeople regularly pose and charge for pictures, which was a problem for Campion, who'd wanted to snap candid moments. But his photos and his wife's journal do capture some ironies of modern Himba life: a woman in traditional (un)dress checking out her ash-braided hair in a modern mirror; airplanes flying above a soothsayer inspecting goat entrails before performing a healing ceremony. Beyond the ironies, the relationship between the Himba and even benign visitors like Shields and Campion is complex. The authors are wise enough to offer only observations, not answers, in this handsomely produced, thought-provoking little volume. 60 bw white photos. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. Handsomely produced and thought-provoking. Publishers Weekly (Publishers Weekly) To their credit, the authors are wise enough to offer only observations, not answers, and the tale is told in a self-effacing observational style that is very refreshing. Not once in the sixty black and white photos do we catch a glimpse of our would-be protagonists. Exquisite and sensual, witty and often poignant, David Campion's photographs tell the layered stories of a traditional culture embracing the contemporary world. And Sandra Shields' sensitive and probing text reminds us that there is no longer an "end of the earth." This graceful book sensitively observes how the Himba people are embracing consumer culture while outsiders search for the values that they think they have lost. This is the story of the new global community, told with insight and honesty by two Canadians roaming through northern Namibia. Kim Echlin, author of *Dagmar's Daughter* (Kim Echlin) *Where Fire Speaks* is a striking portrait of Southern Africa's Himba tribe. Campion's powerful black and white photography coupled with Shields' account of their two-month experience living among the tribe results in an impressive collaborative work of non-fiction. Calgary Herald (Calgary Herald) In a compact form, [Campion Shields] present a moving portrayal of one of the world's numerous indigenous people's coming to terms with, on one hand, their traditional life and, on the other, the enticements and forces of modernity. Crank Magazine (Crank Magazine) About the Author Sandra Shields and David Campion are a married couple who collaborate on numerous narrative/photographic projects, including the book *Where Fire Speaks*, which won the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize in 2003. They live outside of Vancouver, BC. Sandra Shields and David Campion are a married couple who collaborate on numerous narrative/photographic projects, including the book *Where Fire Speaks*, which won the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize in 2003. They live outside of Vancouver, BC.