



Mama Lola: A Vodou Priestess in Brooklyn (Comparative Studies in Religion and Society)

By Karen McCarthy Brown

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Vodou is among the most misunderstood and maligned of the world's religions. *Mama Lola* shatters the stereotypes by offering an intimate portrait of Vodou in everyday life. Drawing on a 35 year long friendship with Mama Lola, a Vodou priestess, Karen McCarthy Brown tells tales spanning five generations of Vodou healers in Mama Lola's family, beginning with an African ancestor and ending with Claudine Michel's account of working with Mama Lola after the Haitian earthquake. Out of these stories, in which dream and vision flavor everyday experience and the Vodou spirits guide decision making, Vodou emerges as a religion focused on healing brought about by mending broken relationships between the living, the dead, and the Vodou spirits.

Deeply exploring the role of women in religious practices and the related themes of family and of religion and social change, Brown provides a rich context in which to understand the authority that urban Haitian women exercise in the home and in the Vodou temple.

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Editorial Review

From the Inside Flap

"Brown weaves together fictional, biographical, and ethnological narratives into a moving account of the life of a Vodou community and its leader, Mama Lola. This book belies the stereotypes that still distort the image of this ancient religion in the academic as well as the popular mind."—Albert J. Raboteau, Princeton University

"An eloquent contribution to the emerging feminist paradigm of scholarship as engaged, embodied, and life-affirming."—Carol P. Christ, author of *Laughter of Aphrodite*

"A riveting narrative, rich in detail. Karen Brown brings a rare, well-informed regard to her interpretation of Haitian religious life."—Lawrence E. Sullivan, author of *Icanchu's Drum: An Orientation to the Meaning of South American Religions*

About the Author

Karen McCarthy Brown is Professor Emerita of the Sociology and Anthropology of Religion at the Graduate and Theological Schools of Drew University. **Claudine Michel** is Professor of Black Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Users Review

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Larry Young:

This *Mama Lola: A Vodou Priestess in Brooklyn* (Comparative Studies in Religion and Society) book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book will be information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This particular *Mama Lola: A Vodou Priestess in Brooklyn* (Comparative Studies in Religion and Society) without we know teach the one who studying it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't become worry *Mama Lola: A Vodou Priestess in Brooklyn* (Comparative Studies in Religion and Society) can bring when you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This *Mama Lola: A Vodou Priestess in Brooklyn* (Comparative Studies in Religion and Society) having excellent arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

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