



## Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo

By Judy Rosenthal

Download now

Read Online →

### Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo By Judy Rosenthal

As a new resident of Togo in 1985, Judy Rosenthal witnessed her first Gorovodu trance ritual. Over the next eleven years, she studied this voodoo in West Africa's Ewe populations of coastal Ghana, Togo, and Benin, an area once called the Slave Coast. The result is *Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo*, an ethnography of spirit possession that focuses on law and morality in "medecine Vodou" orders. Gorovodu is not a doctrinal set, but rather a linguistic, moral, and spiritual community, with both real and imagined aspects.

In medecine Vodou possession, the deities evoked are spirits of "bought people" from the savanna regions, slaves who worked for southern coastal lineages, often marrying into Ewe families. Drumming and dancing rituals, replete with voluptuous trances and gender reversals, bring these "foreign" spirits back into Ewe communities to protect worshippers, heal the sick and troubled, arbitrate disputes, and enjoy themselves as they did before they died. (Rosenthal employs Bakhtin's theory of carnival to interpret the openly festive element of Gorovodu.) The changeable nature of the religion echoes the lack of boundaries of the Gorovodu family and the residents' belief that communal and individual identity are fluid rather than fixed. Numerous name changes early in this century indicated a strategy for resisting colonial control.

Writing from a background of anthropology, Rosenthal carefully monitors her own role as narrator in the book, aware of the cultural distance between her and the Africans she is writing about. She intends this ethnography to mirror the "texts" of voodoo itself, a body of signifiers and meanings with which the reader must interact in order to make sense of it.

 [Download Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo ...pdf](#)



# Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo

*By Judy Rosenthal*

## **Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo** By Judy Rosenthal

As a new resident of Togo in 1985, Judy Rosenthal witnessed her first Gorovodu trance ritual. Over the next eleven years, she studied this voodoo in West Africa's Ewe populations of coastal Ghana, Togo, and Benin, an area once called the Slave Coast. The result is *Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo*, an ethnography of spirit possession that focuses on law and morality in "medecine Vodou" orders. Gorovodu is not a doctrinal set, but rather a linguistic, moral, and spiritual community, with both real and imagined aspects.

In medecine Vodou possession, the deities evoked are spirits of "bought people" from the savanna regions, slaves who worked for southern coastal lineages, often marrying into Ewe families. Drumming and dancing rituals, replete with voluptuous trances and gender reversals, bring these "foreign" spirits back into Ewe communities to protect worshippers, heal the sick and troubled, arbitrate disputes, and enjoy themselves as they did before they died. (Rosenthal employs Bakhtin's theory of carnival to interpret the openly festive element of Gorovodu.) The changeable nature of the religion echoes the lack of boundaries of the Gorovodu family and the residents' belief that communal and individual identity are fluid rather than fixed. Numerous name changes early in this century indicated a strategy for resisting colonial control.

Writing from a background of anthropology, Rosenthal carefully monitors her own role as narrator in the book, aware of the cultural distance between her and the Africans she is writing about. She intends this ethnography to mirror the "texts" of voodoo itself, a body of signifiers and meanings with which the reader must interact in order to make sense of it.

## **Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo** By Judy Rosenthal Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #855819 in Books
- Brand: Brand: University of Virginia Press
- Published on: 1998-01-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.02" h x .67" w x 5.98" l, 1.02 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 282 pages

 [Download Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo ...pdf](#)



## **Editorial Review**

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

##### **Erin Chretien:**

Within other case, little individuals like to read book Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo. You can choose the best book if you like reading a book. So long as we know about how is important some sort of book Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo. You can add expertise and of course you can around the world with a book. Absolutely right, mainly because from book you can know everything! From your country until foreign or abroad you will find yourself known. About simple factor until wonderful thing it is possible to know that. In this era, we are able to open a book or maybe searching by internet system. It is called e-book. You can utilize it when you feel uninterested to go to the library. Let's learn.

##### **Wendell Nadeau:**

This Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo are reliable for you who want to become a successful person, why. The main reason of this Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo can be one of many great books you must have is actually giving you more than just simple examining food but feed an individual with information that might be will shock your prior knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it just about everywhere and whenever your conditions throughout the e-book and printed kinds. Beside that this Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo forcing you to have an enormous of experience such as rich vocabulary, giving you trial of critical thinking that could it useful in your day activity. So , let's have it and luxuriate in reading.

##### **Daniel Engle:**

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book particularly book entitled Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a e-book then become one form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get prior to. The Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo giving you a different experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful information for your better life with this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

##### **Suk Barry:**

This Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo is great guide for you because the content which is full of information for you who also always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. That book

reveal it data accurately using great arrange word or we can say no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read the idea hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only will give you straight forward sentences but challenging core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo in your hand like having the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no reserve that offer you world with ten or fifteen small right but this reserve already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. busy do you still doubt that will?

**Download and Read Online Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo By Judy Rosenthal #8NRFZQPEL91**

## **Read Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo By Judy Rosenthal for online ebook**

Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo By Judy Rosenthal Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo By Judy Rosenthal books to read online.

### **Online Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo By Judy Rosenthal ebook PDF download**

**Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo By Judy Rosenthal Doc**

**Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo By Judy Rosenthal Mobipocket**

**Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo By Judy Rosenthal EPub**

**8NRFZQPEL91: Possession, Ecstasy, and Law in Ewe Voodoo By Judy Rosenthal**