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My Grandfather is a Magician

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~~Not a Choice:~~

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

5

Not a fairy tale, but, as the subtitle 'work and wisdom in an African village' reveals, an explanation of the place of traditional herbal medicine in a south east Nigerian village. The book is related from the point of view of a young boy who introduces us to his family and the traditional and modern professions that they follow: baker, potter, smith, teacher, doctor, lawyer and seamstress. But to the narrator the most powerful of all is his grandfather, who spends half the year in the forest, and can use leaves and roots and bark to cure illnesses. This book presents a positive and fascinating account of traditional medicine, and a brief note on the study of ethnobiology which has arisen from it. It is superbly illustrated with the author's own photographs of contemporary Nigerian community life, and of the raw materials of grandfather's trade. This is an unusual and very rewarding book.

Running Order:

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