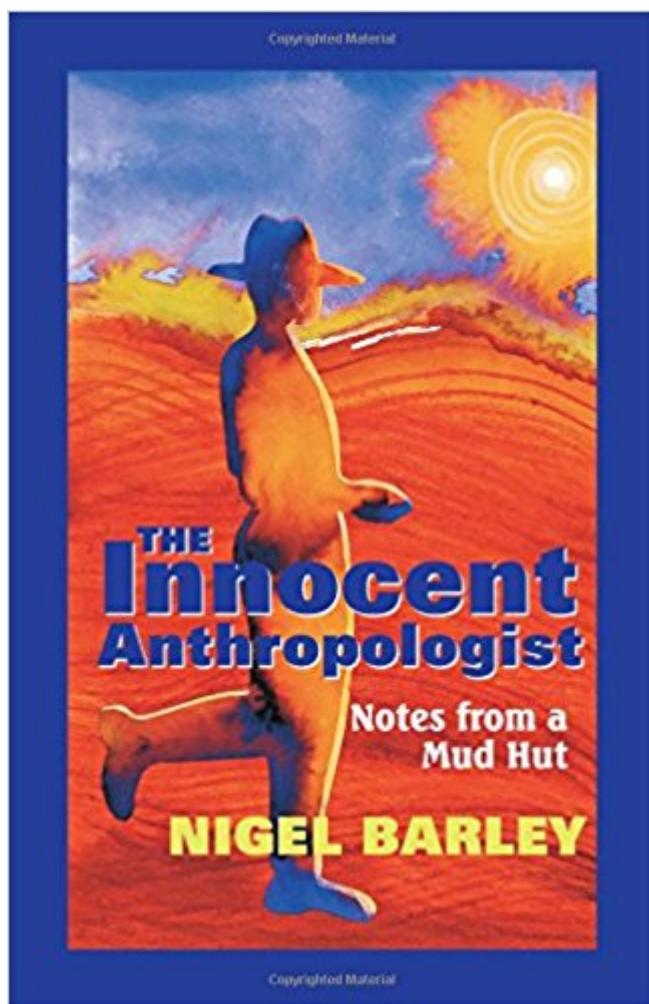


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# The Innocent Anthropologist : Notes From A Mud Hut



## **Synopsis**

When British anthropologist Nigel Barley set up home among the Dowayo people in northern Cameroon, he knew how fieldwork should be conducted. Unfortunately, nobody had told the Dowayo. His compulsive, witty account of first fieldwork offers a wonderfully inspiring introduction to the real life of a cultural anthropologist doing research in a Third World area. Both touching and hilarious, Barley's unconventional story--in which he survived boredom, hostility, disaster, and illness--addresses many critical issues in anthropology and in fieldwork. Also by Nigel Barley and available from Waveland Press: *Grave Matters: Encounters with Death around the World* (ISBN 978-1577664310). Titles of related interest available from Waveland Press: *DeVita, Stumbling toward Truth: Anthropologists at Work* (ISBN 9781577661252) and *Gardner-Hoffman, Dispatches from the Field: Neophyte Ethnographers in a Changing World* (ISBN 9781577664512).

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"I absolutely love this book and am using it this semester. The text is extremely readable and provides students with real insight into how fieldwork can go right even in the face of adversity."  
--Yvonne Downes, Hilbert College "I have decided to use it in my Introduction to Cultural Anthropology course. Its strength was the author's clear articulation of the fieldwork process in all its highs and lows." --Christina Schwenkel, University of California, Riverside

"The prevalence of factual data in anthropological monographs stems . . . from an attitude of 'when in doubt, collect facts.' This is, in a sense, an understandable approach. So off I went every day,

armed with my tobacco and notebooks and paced out the fields, calculated the yields, counted the goats in a flurry of irrelevant activity. This at least had the virtue of making my weird and inexplicable ways familiar to the Dowayos and I began to know them by name." (from Chapter 6)

This book is self-deprecating and humorous. I got a couple of good laughs, which is rare in an anthropology book.

I love the eloquent, lively, and vivid storytelling of the author! This book has made me laugh as much as it has enriched my vocabulary! Quick, educational, and highly amusing read. Would love to read more.

An entertaining serious book. Mr. Barley's understated tone is a powerful tool in the rendition of amazement and humor. Those of us who have had the pleasure of an African sojourn can relate to his continuous sense of wonder and surprise which rightfully and at every turn challenge our daily assumptions. This is a very humorous often hilarious book, whose last chapter, Mr. Barley's return to England, is a must read for anyone trying to understand the fascination foreign travel and foreign experiences can exert. The clash of cultures on the reverse is as powerful a discovery as his entire life in the bush was. A great book on all accounts!

One of the more creative books to come out of cultural anthropology, and I highly recommend it to any beginning anthropology students. Funny, entertaining, self-deprecating, and timeless.

Those who have experienced it first-hand know that life in rural Africa is at the same time seductively alluring and monumentally frustrating. Barley captures the essence of African village life with a delicate balance of acid wit and utter transparency. A must read for anyone headed for the bush!!

I purchased this book for a college course and was not disappointed! It was actually humorous as well. Would purchase this book even if it was not for a class....

Awesome

This book began with a very funny account of preparation for the author's expedition, but I found it repetitive and tedious as it went on.

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