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Nota di contenuto	Introduction: AIDS, politics and music -- The battle for Venda kingship -- A rite to AIDS education? Venda girls' initiation, HIV prevention, and the politics of knowledge -- 'We want a job in the government': motivation and mobility in HIV/AIDS peer education -- 'We sing about what we cannot talk about': biomedical knowledge in stanza -- Guitar songs and sexy women: a folk cosmology of AIDS -- 'Condoms cause AIDS': poison, prevention, and degrees of separation -- Conclusion -- Appendix A: songs on accompanying web site -- Appendix B: 'Zwidzumbe' (secrets) -- Appendix C: AIDS, AIDS, AIDS.
Sommario/riassunto	This book offers an original anthropological approach to the AIDS epidemic in South Africa, demonstrating why AIDS interventions in the

former homeland of Venda have failed - and possibly even been counterproductive. It does so through a series of ethnographic encounters, from kings to condoms, which expose the ways in which biomedical understanding of the virus have been rejected by - and incorporated into - local understandings of health, illness, sex and death. Through the songs of female initiation, AIDS education and wandering minstrels, the book argues that music is central to understanding how AIDS interventions operate. This book elucidates a hidden world of meaning in which people sing about what they cannot talk about, where educators are blamed for spreading the virus, and in which condoms are often thought to cause AIDS. The policy implications are clear: African worldviews must be taken seriously if AIDS interventions in Africa are to become successful.

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