

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910826779303321
Autore	Straight Bilinda <1964->
Titolo	Miracles and extraordinary experience in northern Kenya // Bilinda Straight
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia : , : University of Pennsylvania Press, , c2007
ISBN	0-8122-0937-0
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (290 pages)
Collana	Contemporary Ethnography Contemporary ethnography
Disciplina	299.685
Soggetti	Samburu (African people) - Religion Miracles - Kenya - Samburu District Death - Religious aspects Resurrection Ethnography
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [253]-269) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Author's Note -- Part I. Framing Extraordinary Experience -- Chapter 1. Experience -- Chapter 2. Signs -- Chapter 3. Nkai -- Part II. Fragile Borders -- Chapter 4. Latukuny -- Chapter 5. Noki -- Chapter 6. Death -- Chapter 7. Resurrection -- Chapter 8. Loip -- Conclusion. Immediacies -- Appendix 1. From the Derridean Gap to Theorizations of Consciousness and Forgetting: Defending Expansive Experience Within the Play of Signs -- Appendix 2. The "I" Verb Stem -- Notes -- Glossary -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The Samburu of northern Kenya struggle to maintain their pastoral way of life as drought and the side effects of globalization threaten both their livestock and their livelihood. Mirroring this divide between survival and ruin are the lines between the self and the other, the living and the dead, "this side" and inia bata, "that side." Cultural anthropologist Bilinda Straight, who has lived with the Samburu for extended periods since the 1990's, bears witness to Samburu life and death in Miracles and Extraordinary Experience in Northern Kenya. Written mostly in the field, Miracles and Extraordinary Experience in Northern Kenya is the first book-length ethnography completely

devoted to Samburu divinity and belief. Here, child prophets recount their travels to heaven and back. Others report transformations between persons and inanimate objects. Spirit turns into action and back again. The miraculous is interwoven with the mundane as the Samburu continue their day-to-day twenty-first-century existence. Straight describes these fantastic movements inside the cultural logic that makes them possible; thus she calls into question how we experience, how we feel, and how anthropologists and their readers can best engage with the improbable. In her detailed and precise accounts, Straight writes beyond traditional ethnography, exploring the limits of science and her own limits as a human being, to convey the significance of her time with the Samburu as they recount their fantastic yet authentic experiences in the physical and metaphysical spaces of their culture.
