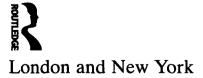
African Voices, African Lives

Personal narratives from a Swahili village

Pat Caplan



Contents

	List of illustrations Dramatis personae and place names Acknowledgements	ix xi xiii
	Prologue: a special prayer	1
1		6
Pa	rt I A life history	
	Introduction	25
2	Mohammed's story	26
Pa	rt II Mohammed as ethnographer	
	Introduction	61
3	Making a living: the land and the sea	66
4	The life cycle: relationships, conflict and emotions	83
Pa	rt III Other texts, other voices: three encounters, 1965-85	
	Introduction	109
5	Encounter one: 1965–7	111
6	Encounter two: 1976	124
7	Encounter three: 1985	137
Pa	art IV The search for knowledge	
	Introduction	151

V111	Contents

1

8	Dealing with affliction: explanation	156
9	Dealing with affliction: spirits	171
10	Encounter four: 1994	196
11	Conclusion	229
	Epilogue: intercession	236
	Glossary	239
	Notes	243
	References	253
	Index	261

•

List of illustrations

PLATES

1	'It was pastimes with my friends': boys playing on beach	30
2	'I managed to read three chapters': boy at Koran school	
	copying out an excerpt from the holy book onto a	
	board (ubao)	31
3	Dhow at anchor	32
4	'The thing that I wanted': child being carried to be	
	circumcised	35
5	'All the dances young people like': youths at a dance	
	wearing a variety of hats	38
6	'And God granted that we had children': young mother	
	with her baby son	43
7	Hoisting the sail of a mashua prior to sailing	46
8	'My relatives are my wealth, my relatives are my children':	
	old woman with great-grandchild	48
9	Women and children emerging from the sea to picnic on	
	the beach on New Year's Day	67
10	Fishermen with sting-ray	81
11	Loading a mashua	81
12	Men at a funeral	91
13	Thatching a house with palm fronds (makuti)	114
14	Women's heavy workload: pounding rice	116
15	'Her mother was now very old': old woman winnowing,	
	watched by grandson whom she fosters	134
16	'I want to start cutting raffia': woman stripping raffia	
	from dried palm frond prior to selling	139
17	'One can't sit doing nothing': woman winnows rice while	
	a neighbour's son looks on	141
18	Divination at a kitanga	146