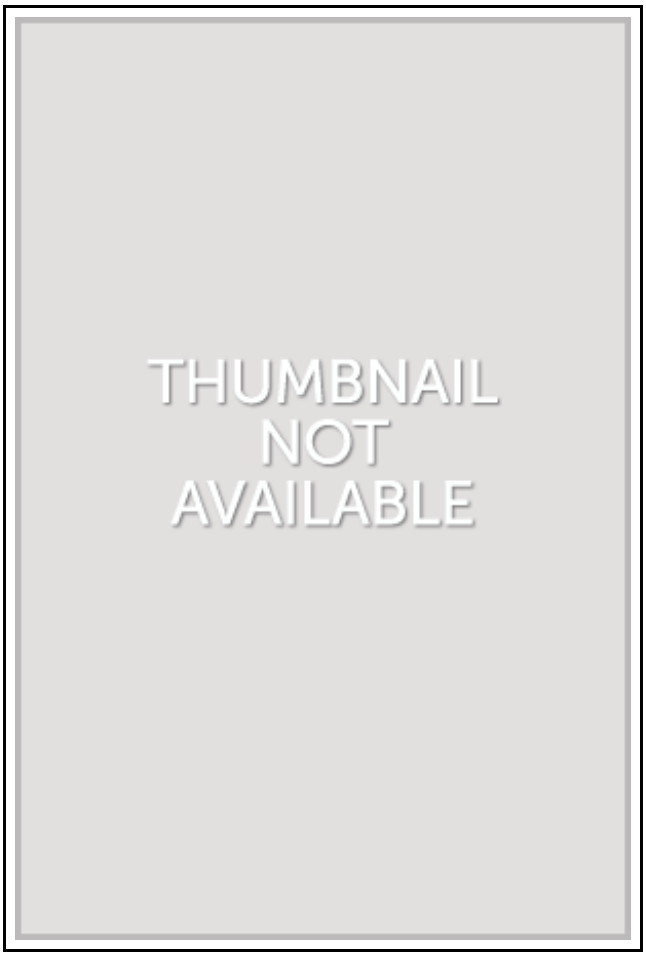
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GENDERED WORDS: SENTIMENTS AND EXPRESSION IN CHANGING RURAL CHINA (HARDBACK)

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Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2015. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 236 x 163 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Built on twenty years of fieldwork in rural Jiangyong of Hunan Province in south China, this book explores the world s only gender-defined and now disappearing women s script known as nushu. What drove peasant women to create a script of their own and write, and how do those writings throw new light on how gender is addressed in epistemology and historiography and how the unprivileged social class uses marginalized forms of expression to negotiate with the dominant social structure. Further, how have the politics of salvaging this disappearing centuries-old cultural heritage molded a new poetics in contemporary society? This book explores nushu in conjunction with the local women s singing tradition (nuge), tied into the life narratives of four women born in the 1910s, 1930s, and 1960s respectively, each representative in her own way: a nuge singer (majority of Jiangyong women), a child bride (enjoying not much nushu/nuge), the last living traditionally-trained nushu writer, and a new-generation nushu transmitter. Altogether, their stories unfold peasant women s lifeworlds and forefronts various aspects of China s changing social milieu over the past century. They show how nushu/nuge-registering women s sense and sensibilities and providing agency to subjects who have been silenced by history-constitute a reflexive social field whereby women share life stories to expand the horizon of their personal worldviews and probe beneath the surface of their existence for new inspiration in their process of becoming. With the concept of expressive depths, this book opens a new vista on how women express themselves through multiple forms that simultaneously echo and critique the mainstream social system and urges a rethinking of how forms of expression define and confine the voice carried....

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