

GLOSSARY

Throughout the book I have chosen to follow Zulu conventions for singular and plural. As a result, I have included both singular and plural to match the text.

amasi fermented or sour milk; a very popular, yogurt-like food.

gogo literally grandmother, though it refers to older women in general.

hlonipha literally respect; it also refers to that practice of following particular protocols like adhering to food taboos as a sign of respect.

idliso a witchcraft illness that has the same symptoms as tuberculosis.

intelezi a special umuthi used in protection rituals.

inyanga (plural: izinyanga) a category of local healers often referred to as herbalists. Izinyanga are generally male and heal by giving patients imithi that they prepare.

isangoma (plural: izangoma) a category of local healers often referred to as diviners. Izangoma are generally female and heal in consultation with the ancestors.

mkhulu literally grandfather, though it refers to older men in general.

umthakathi (plural: abathakathi) a person who practices and sends witchcraft.

umuthi (plural: imithi) a medicine or potion. An umuthi could be used to cure or treat an ill person, and it could also be sent by an umthakathi to make someone sick.