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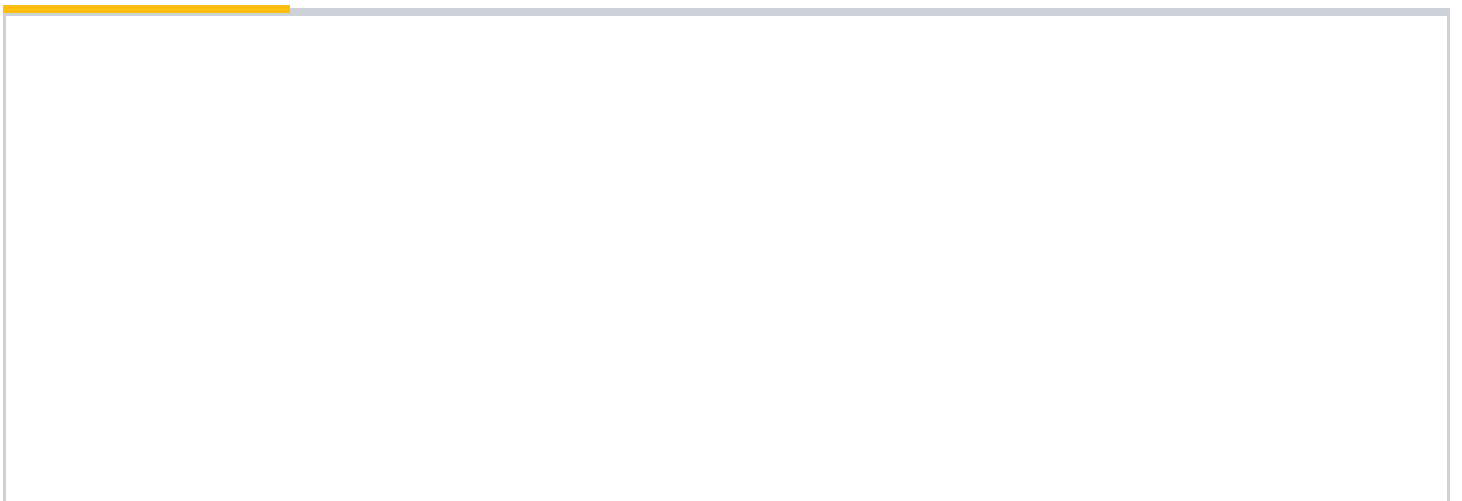
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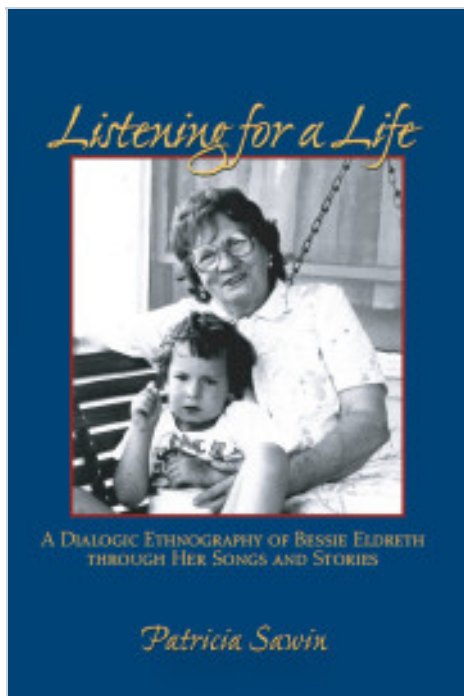


Listening For A Life: A  
Dialogic Ethnography of  
Bessie Eldreth through  
Her Songs and Stories



In this Book





## Listening For A Life: A Dialogic Ethnography of Bessie Eldreth through Her Songs and Stories

*Patricia Sawin*

2004

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Published by: [Utah State University Press](#)

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### SUMMARY

In one sense a folklorist's portrayal of a notable folk artist's life and art, *Listening for a Life* is equally a rethinking of the processes involved in such work, not only in how the folklorist conveys her subject but in how her subject constitutes and performs herself into being through dialogue with others: those present, those once present, those imagined and anticipated.

Drawing on Bakhtinian and feminist theory, Sawin pushes forward our understanding of the interactive roles of ethnographer and subject and in the process gives us a deeper understanding of folk singer and storyteller Bessie Eldreth and her greatest art, herself.

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