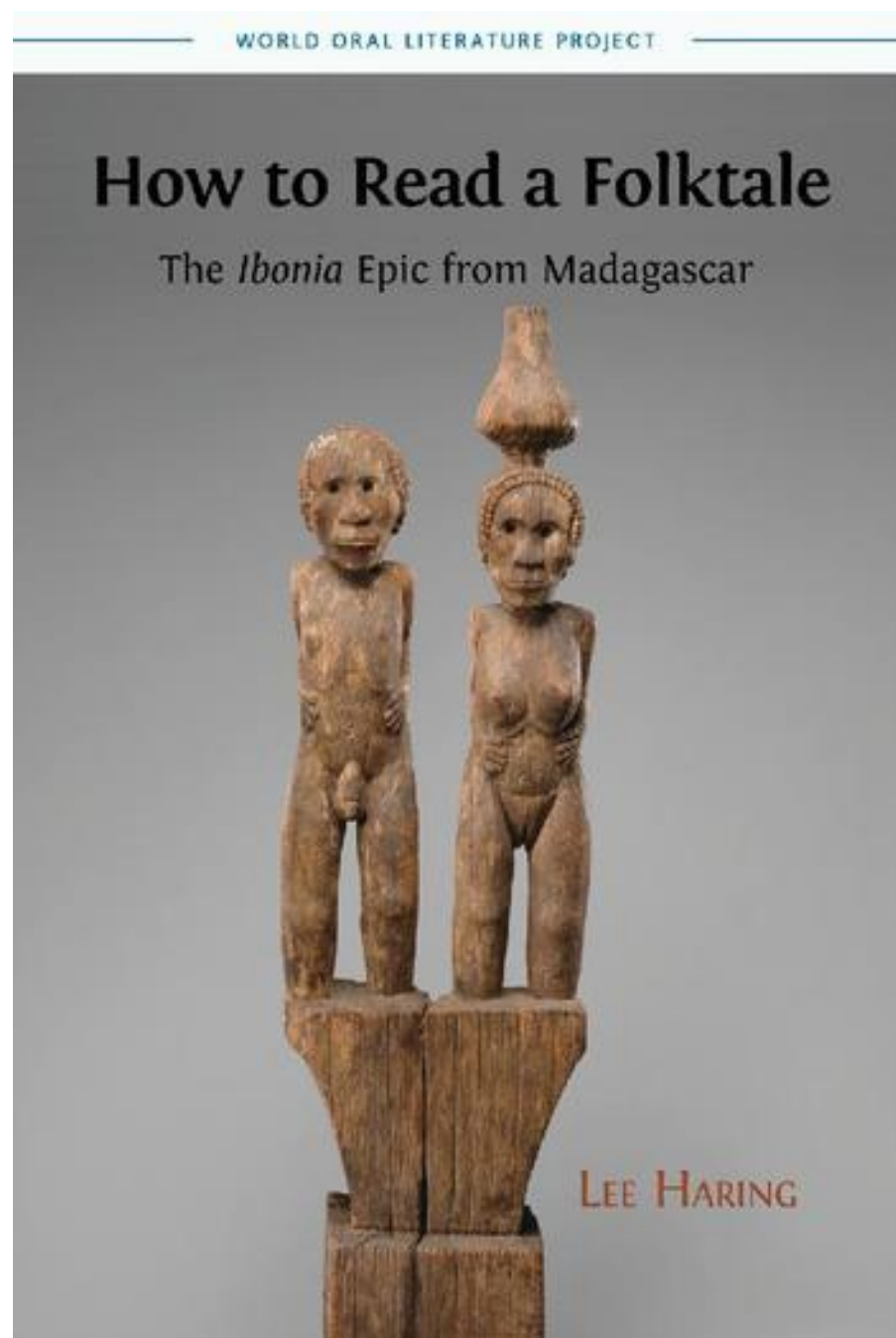


How to Read a Folktale : The 'Ibonia' Epic from Madagascar

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Author(s) [Haring, Lee; Turin, Mark](#)

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Abstract How to Read a Folktale offers the first English translation of Ibonia, a spellbinding tale of old Madagascar. In the story, a powerful royal hero attempts to rescue his betrothed from an evil adversary and, after a series of tests and adventures, restores the royal lineage. These fairytale elements link Ibonia with European folktales, but the tale is still very much a product of its time; it presents Indonesian-style riddles and poems; and it inflates the form of folktale into epic proportions. Recently, for the first time, Ibonia proclaims the power of the ancestors against the foreigner. Through Ibonia, Lee Haring's definitive translation, originally published in 1994, has now been fully revised to emphasize its poetic quality and its fascinating imagination and symbols of the Malagasy. Haring's research connects this exotic narrative with its cultural context. [More](#)

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