

BODY AND SOUL : stories of african women

GIORGIO PALMERA

with interviews by Gino Bianchi and texts by Paola Riccardi

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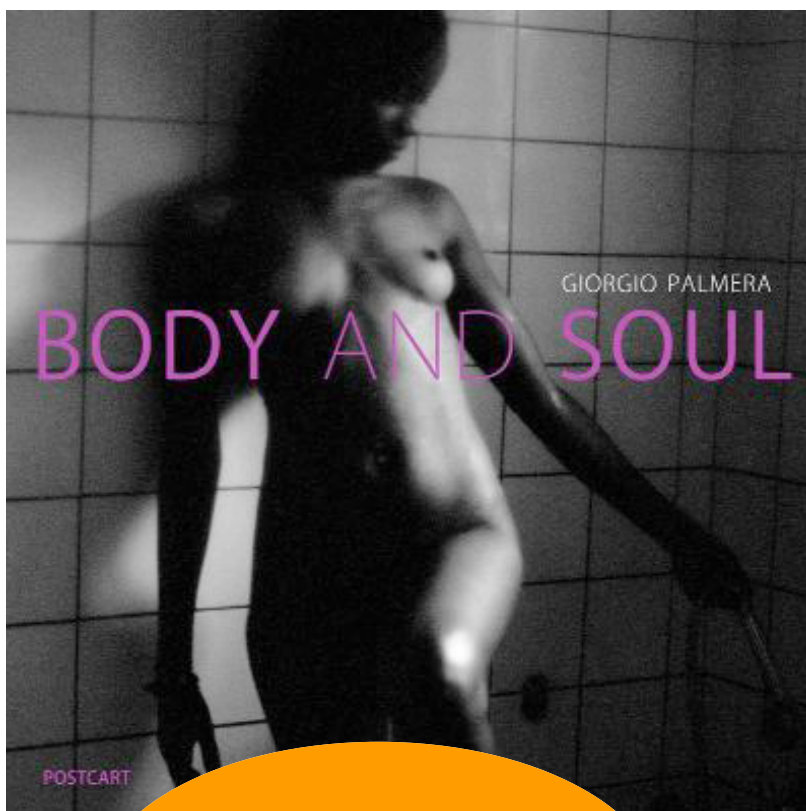
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BINDING HARDBACK

MARKET WORLDWIDE EXCEPT ITALY

This series of portraits on young prostitutes from different villages of Uganda met in Kampala, realized by Giorgio Palmera, with his usual clear and straight forward style, evokes an atmosphere of warm intimacy, a mixture of naiveté and lack of inhibition. The portraits affect because they are so far away from the cliché: there's respect, love, will to understand. From here, the interviews finely reported by Gino Bianchi, as in the typical investigation style of *Fotografi Senza Frontiere*. And the girls feel comfortable, they tell their stories of warriors women. These photographs express the strength of comforting caresses.



**Portraits and interviews
of young prostitutes in
today's Africa**

ITALIAN / ENGLISH TEXT

Giorgio Palmera was born in Rome in 1968, where he lives and works. Deals mainly with social photography. He produced reportages in the Middle East, Africa and Central America, supported by the European Union and some NGOs. Between 1996 and 1998 he lived in Nicaragua with certain continuity, where the idea of the creation of photo laboratories for street kids was born. From that experience, in 2002, *Fotografi Senza Frontiere* was born, whose he is founder and president. Follow laboratories of photography in Algeria with the Saharawi people, Palestine and Uganda. He published on National Geographic Italy, Newsweek, Le Monde Diplomatique, Internazionale. In 2005 he published "Al Jidar", by Trolley Ltd., about the construction of the wall in Palestine.



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Juliet is twenty and is a Sudanese refugee who chose Kampala because it is safe, with a better atmosphere than Sudan:

"My country is violent. My father was a soldier who was killed in the war when I was five. My mother died soon after and I was left alone with my grandmother and my brother. My uncle supported us for a while, but then he stopped so I had to leave school and start work. I lived in a small village in Sudan and to make a living I would go to draw water from the well and then sell it. But this wasn't enough and so two years ago I decided to leave and come to Uganda. I started frequenting the white men's clubs and working as a prostitute because it was the only way to earn a decent amount of money. For a while I had a boyfriend, an English guy. We were together for three months. We talked of marriage and made plans for the future. Then he went back to Britain. I waited for him, I believed everything he told me. I'd even stopped going to the clubs, staying at home, spending my evenings watching a film before going to bed. He returned after a few months and we got back together, just like a real couple. One day I told him I was going to my village to see my grandmother. When I came back I found him with another girl. Now I hate him. He's the only person I've ever truly hated. I went back to the clubs because I have to help my brother and my grandmother, the sweetest person in the world. I do all this because I want my brother to study, to have a better future than mine. He is very clever and I have a mother's pride in him. I also did well at school. Who knows? Maybe one day I'll be able to take up my studies again. If I finish school I could find myself a job, anything would do, there are so many professions! But I still have to think about my grandmother and my brother, they need my help, even though I'm sick and tired of this life. Though the heaviest burden for me is having secrets from my grandmother, she doesn't know anything. Perhaps one day I'll tell her everything because it's not nice to keep secrets from those who love you. Every so often I think of my mother and cry; she loved me and treated me like a queen. Sometimes I think my life would not have been like this if she'd still been alive, I would have never ended up like this".

