

Life Turns Man Up and Down: High Life, Useful Advice, and Mad English

Kurt Thometz

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A unique anthology that brings together examples of once wildly popular but long out-of-print African market literature never intended as art: irresistibly charming, brief literary anomalies in all genres, written for entertainment, instruction, and moral guidance.

An indigenous Nigerian publishing phenomenon that was all the rage from World War II until the late 1960s, Onitsha Market literature consisted of pamphlets that contained stories, novels, plays, discourses on the dangers of loose living, and advice on matters ranging from selecting a wife to managing your money. They carried titles such as *Lack of Money Is Not Lack of Sense*, *Drunkards Believe Bar As Heaven*, *No Condition Is Permanent*, and *How to Write Love Letters*, *Toasts*, *and Business Letters*.

Originally sold at Onitsha Market (the largest open-air market in Africa), the pamphlets have become priceless collectors' items. This anthology—facsimile reproductions of the original texts, illustrations, and cover art—now makes them available to a wider audience.



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