

Pandemic Kinship

Shaped around the stories of one extended family, their friends, neighbours, and community, *Pandemic Kinship* provides an intimate portrait of everyday life in Botswana's time of AIDS. It challenges assumptions about a 'crisis of care' unfolding in the wake of the pandemic, showing that care – like other aspects of Tswana kinship – is routinely in crisis, and that the creative ways families navigate such crises make them kin. In Setswana, conflict and crisis are glossed as *dikgang*, and negotiating *dikgang* is an ethical practice that generates and reorients kin relations over time. Governmental and non-governmental organisations often misread the creativity of crisis, intervening in ways that may prove more harmful than the problems they set out to solve. Moving between family discussions, community events, and the daily work of orphan care projects and social work offices, *Pandemic Kinship* provides provocative insights into how we manage change in pandemic times. This title is available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

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Pandemic Kinship

*Families, Intervention, and Social Change
in Botswana's Time of AIDS*

Koreen M. Reece

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*For my parents,
who gave me that magical, awkward combination of roots
and wings.*

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This book is dedicated to the memory of Michele Wisdahl (1977–2021). While I cannot name them without compromising their anonymity, it is also dedicated to the memory of two others gone too soon: 'Tumi', with her laughter, and 'Kagiso', who was a brother to me.

Characters

The Legae Family

Mmapula	matriarch of the Legae family; wife of Dipuo and mother to the Legae siblings
Dipuo	patriarch of the Legae family; husband to Mmapula, father to the Legae siblings
Modiri	eldest of the Legae adult brothers and of all the siblings; runs his own small transport business, predominantly responsible for the family’s cattle
Keitumetse	eldest of the Legae sisters; mother to Lorato; deceased
Khumo	third of the Legae siblings and second eldest sister; mother to Boipelo, Tshepo, and Thabo; live-in partner of Mosimanegape
Moagi	fourth of the Legae siblings and second eldest brother; a soldier; father of Kopano
Kelebogile	fifth of the Legae siblings and third of the sisters; employed at a local NGO; mother of Tefo
Kagiso	sixth of the Legae siblings and third of the brothers; preacher, driver, and shop owner
Oratile	seventh of the Legae siblings and youngest of the sisters; mother of Lesego and Kenosi
Tuelo	youngest of the Legae brothers and of all the siblings
Lorato	eldest granddaughter of Mmapula and Dipuo; only daughter of Keitumetse
Boipelo	eldest daughter of Khumo and Mosimanegape; older sister of Tshepo and Thabo
Tshepo	second eldest daughter of Khumo and Mosimanegape; younger sister of Boipelo
Kgosiemang	eldest son of Khumo and Mosimanegape; in his mid-teens

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Lesego	eldest daughter of Oratile; in her early teens
Letlhogonolo	second eldest son of Khumo and Mosimanegape
Kopano	only son of Moagi; in his early teens
Tefo	only son of Kelebogile; in late primary school
Mompati	second-youngest son of Khumo and Mosimanegape; in late primary school
Thabo	youngest son of Khumo and Mosimanegape; younger brother of Boipelo and Tshepo
Kenosi	youngest daughter of Oratile; in late primary school
Mosimanegape	live-in partner of Khumo; father to Boipelo, Tshepo, Kgosiemang, Letlhogonolo, Mompati, and Thabo

Neighbours and Friends

Rra Ditau	neighbour of the Legaes and builder; married to Mma Ditau, a distant maternal relative of Mmapula
Pono	young woman; neighbour to the author and the Legaes
Mpho	Pono's older sister; resident in Maropeng
Lesedi	friend of the Legaes; cousin (mother's sister's child, <i>ngwana a mmangwane</i>) to Tumi
Tumi	cousin (mother's sister's child) to Lesedi
Bonolo	young man from Dithaba; moved to stay with the Legaes
Mma Dineo	distant relative of Mmapula's; grandmother to three boys involved in the first formal fostering arrangement made in Dithaba
Mmabontle	staff member from the local orphan care project; daughter of Tharo's grandfather
Tharo	young man from Dithaba initiated into the <i>Matsosangwao mophato</i> ; grandson of Mmabontle's father

Key NGO and Government Figures

Thapelo	founder and coordinator of national non-governmental organisation specialising in retreats for orphaned youth
Tsholo	coordinator of local non-governmental orphan care project
Tumelo	village social worker for Dithaba