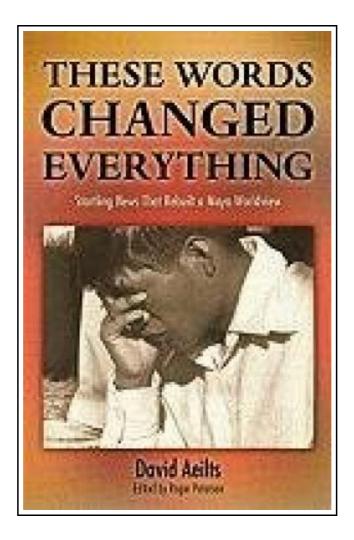
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THESE WORDS CHANGED EVERYTHING



Wcl 3rd Party. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 191 pages. Dimensions: 8.4in. x 5.5in. x 0.6in.(from Chapter One): THE PEAKED thatched-roofed house seemed cozy enough. Gently bathed in rich moonlight and nestled nearby a large field of placid maize, it spoke of rest and peace. Few could have realized this dreamy, tranquil setting was nothing more than a pretentious backdrop to the treachery marching quietly on stage. Religious elders of the fiercely independent Chamula Indian tribe had issued a barbaric decree: this house--or rather, the people inside--were like rodents. Rodents must be exterminated. Like so many Indian dwellings in the highland beauty of southern Mexico, the walls of this uncomplicated one-room structure were made from upright poles plastered over with weather-blocking mud. Sturdied by heavy corner posts with beams atop each wall, its no-frills engineering supported the rain-shedding weight of the thick straw roof. Housed inside was an open hearth, a small wooden table, and a few chairs crafted out of white pine, each about the size of childrens play furniture. Five reed sleeping mats lay unrolled, bedding their young occupants on the packed earthen floor. Outside, the docile moonlight danced playfully on a small fence trying to protect the garden plot that delivered cabbages, beans, squash, and natural turnip greens to its tenants. A small enclosure at the side of the house corralled a dozen sheep that provided wool for clothing and manure for fertilizer. Free-roaming chickens, now still and hushed for the night, roosted in nearby trees. The stage was calm, the setting serene-just like thousands of other households surrounding the tribal center, San Juan Chamula, that sleepy night. In the eyes of the elders however, the people in this house, who now followed a strange God, represented a severe threat to the tribes religious system and cultural...

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