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Mōteatea (sung laments) are at the heart of mātauranga Māori. They are the central strand of Māori poetry and song, a source of knowledge about tribal history and whakapapa, and a living art form. This book introduces Sir Apirana Ngata’s classic four-volume collection of mōteatea, discussing the power and meaning of these traditional Māori songs. With dual text in English and Māori, and illustrated throughout, Ngā Mōteatea: An Introduction He Kupu Arataki provides an accessible entry point into a great Māori art form.