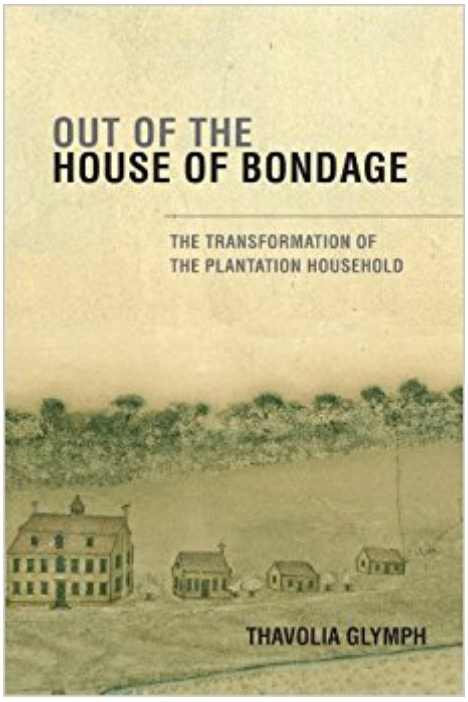
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Out Of The House Of Bondage: The Transformation Of The Plantation Household



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Synopsis

This book views the plantation household as a site of production where competing visions of gender were wielded as weapons in class struggles between black and white women. Mistresses were powerful beings in the hierarchy of slavery rather than powerless victims of the same patriarchal system responsible for the oppression of the enslaved. Glymph challenges popular depictions of plantation mistresses as "friends" and "allies" of slaves and sheds light on the political importance of ostensible private struggles, and on the political agendas at work in framing the domestic as private and household relations as personal.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The intellectually sophisticated and analytically acute Thavolia Glymph compels serious reconsideration of the transition in the relations of southern black and white women. Sensitive to the painful circumstances of both, she illuminates the political dimension of their daily interaction." -Eugene D. Genovese, author of Roll, Jordan, Roll and Mind of the Mater Class, with Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, Cambridge University Press, 2005"Combining the tools of an economic and social historian with a flair for robust cross-examination of historical sources, Thavolia Glymph has fashioned a study of women in the plantation household into a sweeping reinterpretation of the post-slavery South." -Barbara J. Fields, Columbia University"Professor Glymph makes a powerful argument about relationships between black and white women in the slaveholding South. She explores the systematic, often brutal, use of violence by women of the planter elite against enslaved

women and demolishes the idea that some form of gender solidarity trumped race and class in plantation households. This important book should find an appreciative audience among readers interested in African American, southern, women’s, and Civil War-era history." -Gary W. Gallagher, John L. Nau III Professor of History, University of Virginia"...this book is a significant contribution to the history of women, African Americans, and the larger social and economic transformation of the mid-19th century. Highly recommended." -Choice"...Glymph has provided a new canvas for classic questions of enslavement, emancipation, and domestic spaces." -Jessica Millward, Journal of American History"...a provocative and very well-written analysis of gender in the South before and after the Civil War. Glymph’s prose is incisively written and framed within a rich historiographical context." -Jim Downs, Civil War Book Review"Out of the House of Bondage presents a theoretically sophisticated, tightly argued challenge to the existing scholarship on black and white women in the nineteenth century South." -Frank Towers, Labour/Le Travail

This book views the plantation household as a site of production where competing visions of gender were wielded as weapons in class struggles between black and white women. Mistresses were powerful beings in the hierarchy of slavery, and Glymph challenges previous depictions of mistresses as "friends" and "allies" of slaves.

A vivid look at the reality behind the false image of Scarlett O’Hara. Maybe if Scarlett drank, did opium and beat the crap out of Mammy every day that would be closer to the real life experienced by black and white women in Southern plantation houses.

In this well written and thoroughly researched volume, Glymph argues that the terms "public" and "private" are not accurate enough to define how the plantation household changed or to describe the gendered ideology of the South. Instead, the author contends, the management of labor became the driving force in households. Furthermore, the very nature of what constituted a household changed as the Civil War was fought and slaves were emancipated. Perhaps the greatest accomplishment of this book, though, is Glymph’s persuasive attempt to challenge the myth of the antebellum southern plantation mistress and house servant. And that is the beauty of Glymph’s work. One does feel as though they get a picture of women in the plantation household, not just white women or black women, but both. Glymph argues early in the book that too many historians have not given a complete analysis of the plantation mistress, the power she wielded, the violence she meted out, and the role she played in enforcing slavery. As Glymph points out, it was

the plantation mistress who had day-to-day contact with slaves whereas the male master may not. Because Glymph uses sources from both white and black women, it gives a fuller picture of the antebellum household. The post-war South saw white women entering the market as employers, but, Glymph argues, it was black women who had more experience in negotiating wages. Furthermore, black men and women began to use public displays such as parades and celebrations to celebrate their freedom, which unnerved white women. Perhaps the chief accomplishment of Glymph's work is to raise questions about relationship of black and white women after emancipation and what it means in terms of freedom in the post-war South. There are a few things to criticize about Glymph's work. First, although important to her overall argument, the first two chapters seem very repetitive. Glymph proves that there was violence perpetrated by white mistresses, but it seems she could have done this in less pages. Second, this is really a tale of elite white women. Glymph points this out and argues that the book still has implications for the South at large, but it still makes one wonder if the elite white women represent the bulk of the South. Finally, Glymph is prone to hyperbole at times to prove her point. For example, on page 113, Glymph writes, "Adequate medical care, a luxury on the battlefield, became almost nonexistent on the home front." One might successfully argue that medical care was better for people in the southern military than on the home front, but to use a blanket statement like "adequate" is a mistake. Medical care, especially for southern soldiers, was not very good and hundreds of thousands of men on both sides died due to disease. These criticisms aside, Glymph has written a very original work that seems to have broken new ground and makes one consider big questions.

This book is great at what it does. It is a thoroughly academic examination of the roles of women in the slave and reconstruction south. If one is interested in this topic, it is a great read, but the title is very confusing, and the subject matter is narrow. It requires a good amount of historical understanding to really appreciate Glymph's scholarship, but if one has an interest in the topic and the necessary contextual understanding it is well worth the read.

This scholarly work certainly provides historical background to issues affected today by class, gender, and race. In this nation there is no "equal playing field." Professor Glymph effectively refutes quick and glib generalizations that so frequently characterize historical analysis. We are in her debt.

Written by a famous Duke University professor in African and African American studies. I loved "The

Help" and its topic and wanted to learn more. I heard this Professor on CSPAN and searched out her writings. The book is not a fanciful novel and I’m sure it’s for university course use. Still, it’s a very readable book. It’s factually accurate without the cherries on top to get a movie option/deal.If you are serious about this subject, that being, the real "Plantation" living and treatment of "the help" and more, than this book is highly recommended.

this price is valuable. send it to my grandmother, love it . just fine. arrived on time, nice package, really like the product very sharp well balanced, good heft enjoyed using it very much

Great book - fast delivery

This book must be commended for its highly thorough research and impressive use of sources. It covers a little-known aspect of slavery: the relationship between white slave-owning women and their female slaves. This is a fascinating topic and Glymph does it justice. However, the book is extremely dense and often difficult to get through. For the average person (as in, someone who is not a scholar but is merely looking for an interesting read), the book’s message is at times obscured by copious footnotes and often highly repetitive examples. If you can struggle through the density, you will learn a lot, otherwise the book might prove a bit exhausting.

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