



African American Midwifery in the South

Gertrude Jacinta FRASER

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Starting at the turn of the century, most African American midwives in the South were gradually excluded from reproductive health care. Gertrude Fraser shows how physicians, public health personnel, and state legislators mounted a campaign ostensibly to improve maternal and infant health, especially in rural areas. They brought traditional midwives under the control of a supervisory body, and eventually eliminated them. In the writings and programs produced by these physicians and public health officials, Fraser finds a universe of ideas about race, gender, the relationship of medicine to society, and the status of the South in the national political and social economies.

Fraser also studies this experience through dialogues of memory. She interviews members of a rural Virginia African American community that included not just retired midwives and their descendants, but anyone who lived through this transformation in medical care--especially the women who gave birth at home attended by a midwife. She compares these narrations to those in contemporary medical journals and public health materials, discovering contradictions and ambivalence: was the midwife a figure of shame or pride? How did one distance oneself from what was now considered "superstitious" or "backward" and at the same time acknowledge and show pride in the former unquestioned authority of these beliefs and practices?

In an important contribution to African American studies and anthropology, *African American Midwifery in the South* brings new voices to the discourse on the hidden world of midwives and birthing.

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Precisely why? Because this African American Midwifery in the South is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will distress you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who write the book in such wonderful way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of gains than the other book possess such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking way. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I have been you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

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