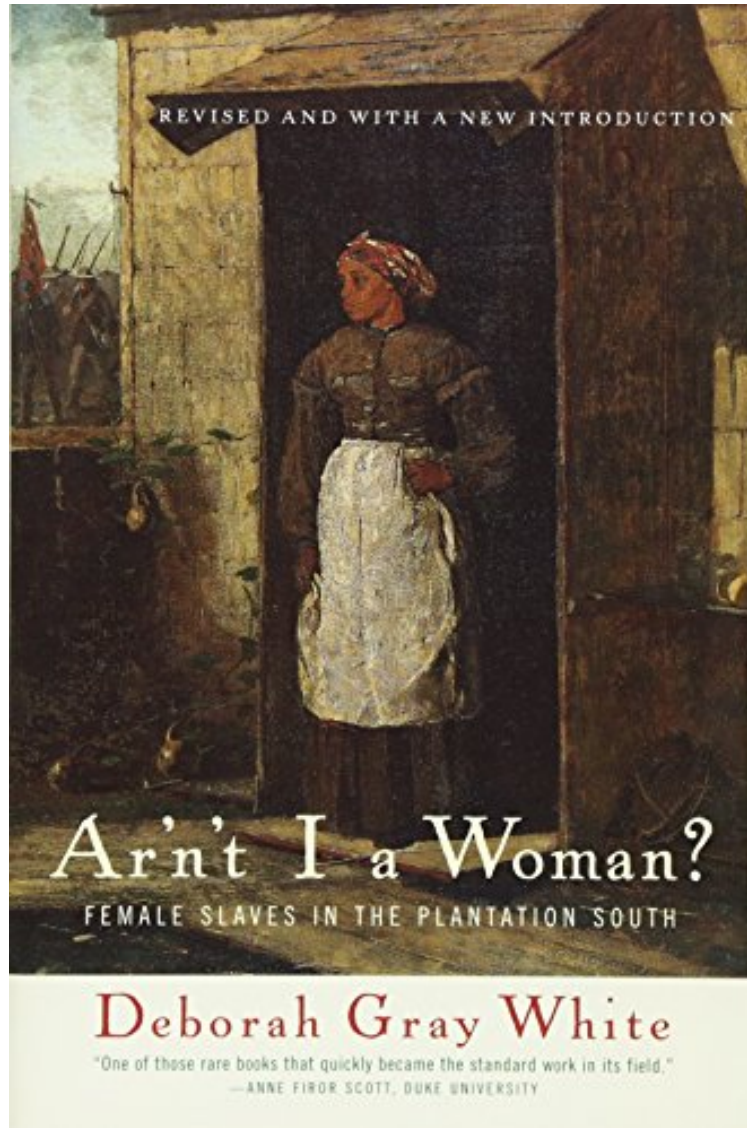


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Ar'n't I a Woman?: Female Slaves in the Plantation South

Deborah Gray White

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was able to dispel the myths about slave women. She did so in a way that was easy to understand but at the same time, academic. I could have done without her excessive use of the word "antebellum" as slavery itself was pre-Civil War. This book has increased my desire to learn more about the abolition movement from the perspective of the slaves as well as dive deeper into the daily lives of plantation black women. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars By p.mok1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent literature is given that paints vivid accounts of historical events. ...By Andrea This book has much suspense and detail. Excellent literature is given that paints vivid accounts of historical events.

"This is one of those rare books that quickly became the standard work in its field. Professor White has done justice to the complexity of her subject." Anne Firor Scott, Duke University Living with the dual burdens of racism and sexism, slave women in the plantation South assumed roles within the family and community that contrasted sharply with traditional female roles in the larger American society. This new edition of *Ar'n't I a Woman?* reviews and updates the scholarship on slave women and the slave family, exploring new ways of understanding the intersection of race and gender and comparing the myths that stereotyped female slaves with the realities of their lives. Above all, this groundbreaking study shows us how black women experienced freedom in the Reconstruction South their heroic struggle to gain their rights, hold their families together, resist economic and sexual oppression, and maintain their sense of womanhood against all odds.

From Library Journal This book challenges the myth of the Southern mammy and other myths and attempts a richer, more complex picture of the lives of black women in slavery. Drawing on historical evidence, including slave narratives and the diaries and autobiographies of white Southerners, as well as on recent scholarship on the black family, the author examines slave women's daily life, occupations, family roles, and female networks. She finds strength and resourcefulness, but denies that female slaves played a domineering role in their families. Her view will be of interest to scholars, especially those studying comparative female social roles. For most readers, however, the story of slave women is better told in Jacqueline Jones's comprehensive work on black women, *Labor of Love, Labor of Sorrow* (LJ 3/1/85). Mary Drake McFeely, Smith Coll. Lib., Northampton, Mass. Copyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc. Original and balanced. . . . [A] splendidly written book. -- Carl N. Degler, Stanford University This is one of those rare books that quickly became the standard work in its field. Professor White has done justice to the complexity of her subject. -- Anne Firor Scott, Duke University About the Author Deborah Gray White is professor of history and co-director of the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis at Rutgers University. She is also the author of *Too Heavy a Load*.