

Out Of The House Of Bondage

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Glymph challenges popular depictions of mistresses as 'friends' and 'allies' of slaves in the plantation household. The plantation household was, first and foremost, a site of production. This fundamental fact has generally been overshadowed by popular and scholarly images of the plantation household as the source of slavery's redeeming qualities, where 'gentle' mistresses ministered to 'loyal' slaves. This book recounts a very different story. The very notion of a private sphere, as divorced from the immoral excesses of chattel slavery as from the amoral logic of market laws, functioned to conceal from public scrutiny the day-to-day struggles between enslaved women and their mistresses, subsumed within a logic of patriarchy. One of emancipation's unsung consequences was precisely the exposure to public view of the unbridgeable social distance between the women on whose labor the plantation household relied and the women who employed them. This is a story of race and gender, nation and citizenship, freedom and bondage in the nineteenth century South, a big abstract story that is composed of equally big personal stories. EAN/ISBN : 9780511421419 Publisher(s): Cambridge University Press Format: ePub/PDF Author(s): Glymph, Thavolia

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