



Unbought and Unbossed: Transgressive Black Women, Sexuality, and Representation

By Trimiko Melancon

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Unbought and Unbossed examines black women's literary and cultural production of the 1970s and early 1980s. Considering texts in the socio-cultural and historical moments of their production, Trimiko Melancon analyzes representations of black women that not only transgress racial, gender, and sexual boundaries, but also diverge from both discourses of "whiteness" and constructions of female identity imposed by black nationalism.

Drawing from black feminist and critical race theories, discourses on gender and sexuality, and literary criticism, Melancon illuminates the complexity of black female identity, desire, and intimacy. She sheds light on a more complex black identity, one ungoverned by rigid politics over-determined by race, gender and sexuality, while also enabling us to better understand the black sexual revolution, contemporary cultural moments, and representations in the age of Michelle Obama.

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Unbought and Unbossed: Transgressive Black Women, Sexuality, and Representation By Trimiko Melancon Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1900614 in Books
- Published on: 2014-11-28
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x .90" w x 5.50" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 256 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"In Unbought and Unbossed, Trimiko Melancon weaves an insightful, critical analysis of discourses and literary representations of black women.... She smartly interprets expressions of black women's agency and resistance to white mainstream and Black Nationalist expectations.... Unbought and Unbossed is an important text for people interested in race, gender, sexuality, and intersectionality. The book opens up new ways to consider the transgressive sexuality of black women in works of literature."

--Gender and Society

Melancon's work contributes to an important conversation about black female sexuality as liberatory. Unbought and Unbossed will lead both old and new scholars of black women's writing back to the novels she investigates to understand the characters' deliberate acts of transgression within the context of a social movement that encompasses both the sexual revolution and the Black Power Movement. Teachers of black women's literatures and sexualities, in particular, will find it a valuable place to begin shifting the script."

--Women's Review of Books

*"Trimiko Melancon offers beautiful and complex readings of novels by Toni Morrison, Ann Allen Shockley, Alice Walker, Gayl Jones, and Gloria Naylor while effortlessly synthesizing a generation of scholarship on black sexuality. Unbought and Unbossed is a refreshingly innovative new work destined to become a classic." —Robert F. Reid-Pharr, author of *Once You Go Black: Choice, Desire, and the Black American Intellectual**

*"Unbought and Unbossed is an interesting exploration of black female sexual politics and literary representations of black womanhood at the intersection of three political and aesthetic movements: black nationalism, (black) feminism, and postmodernism. I was especially impressed with Melancon's close readings of the primary texts and her analysis of the symbolic sexual play and coming of age of the characters. This book is a welcome addition to the very few literary studies that deal explicitly with black womanhood and transgressive sexuality." —Eve Dunbar, Associate Professor of English at Vassar College and author of *Black Regions of the Imagination: African American Writers between the Nation and the World**

"[A] critical analysis of five 'post-1960s black women's texts.' ... Perhaps most provocatively, Melancon concentrates on the transgressive sexuality present in all of these books... and asserts its importance to the authors' larger project.... [S]erious readers of African-American literature will value the innovative observations offered on the intersection of 'race, gender, and sexuality' in American life and letters." —Publishers Weekly

*"Unbought and Unbossed is an eloquently written and well-organized book about an important era in black women's literary tradition."—LaMonda Horton Stallings, Indiana University Bloomington, author of *Mutha' Is Half a Word: Intersections of Folklore, Vernacular, Myth, and Queerness in Black Female**

Culture

About the Author

Trimiko Melancon is Assistant Professor of English, African American Studies, and Women's Studies at Loyola University New Orleans.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marcy Ontiveros:

This book untitled *Unbought and Unbossed: Transgressive Black Women, Sexuality, and Representation* to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book retail store or you can order it by way of online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, because you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this guide from your list.

Clifford Ranger:

The book untitled *Unbought and Unbossed: Transgressive Black Women, Sexuality, and Representation* contain a lot of information on the item. The writer explains her idea with easy technique. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read this. The book was authored by famous author. The author brings you in the new period of time of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or gadget, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open up their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice examine.

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