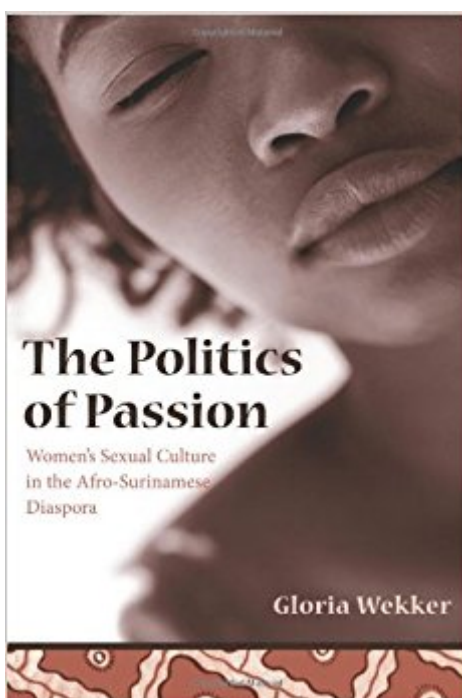


The book was found

# The Politics Of Passion: Women's Sexual Culture In The Afro-Surinamese Diaspora (Between Men-Between Women: Lesbian And Gay Studies)



## Synopsis

Gloria Wekker analyzes the phenomenon of mati work, an old practice among Afro-Surinamese working-class women in which marriage is rejected in favor of male and female sexual partners. Wekker vividly describes the lives of these women, who prefer to create alternative families of kin, lovers, and children, and gives a fascinating account of women's sexuality that is not limited to either heterosexuality or same-sex sexuality. She offers new perspectives on the lives of Caribbean women, transnational gay and lesbian movements, and an Afro-Surinamese tradition that challenges conventional Western notions of marriage, gender, identity, and desire. Bringing these women's voices to the forefront, she offers an extensive and groundbreaking analysis of the unique historical, religious, psychological, economic, linguistic, cultural, and political forces that have shaped their lives.

## Book Information

Series: Between Men-Between Women: Lesbian and Gay Studies

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Columbia University Press (April 25, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0231131631

ISBN-13: 978-0231131636

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #230,863 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Literary Criticism #54 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Women in Politics #85 in Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Gay & Lesbian Studies

## Customer Reviews

.. "A wholly worthwhile book." -- Jaqueline Nassy Brown, .. "A wholly worthwhile book." -- Jaqueline Nassy Brown., . "A wholly worthwhile book." -- Jaqueline Nassy Brown "[A] profound ethnography." -- "New West Indian Guide"

Gloria Wekker analyzes the phenomenon of mati work, an old practice among Afro-Surinamese working-class women in which marriage is rejected in favor of male and female sexual partners.

Wekker vividly describes the lives of these women, who prefer to create alternative families of kin, lovers, and children, and gives a fascinating account of women's sexuality that is not limited to either heterosexuality or same-sex sexuality.

In-depth study of politics of passion in the Caribbean islands and Suriname. Provocatively fascinating. The construct of marriage in Indoamerican/Northern European domination history/economy. Non marriage and independence/close female friendships/relationships as resistance against white/religious male domination. Gloria Wekkers' approach of this research is unique and politically personal. Matiworke at its best! To me an eye opener to female sexuality autonomy and choices. Recommended reading for all women of the world.

This book is an excellent blend of anthropology, ethnic studies, women's studies, gay studies, and postcolonial studies. Progressives bemoan studies that fail to consider race, class, gender, and sexuality together; well, this is an important intervention in that dearth of material. For those who do not understand the difference between essentialism and constructionism, this will make you understand. Professor Griff, Winnie Mandela, Robert Mugabe and so many others make false claims that Africa had no homosexuality until Europeans intervened. Dr. Wekker disproves that by showing how Surinamese matiworke are influenced greatly by West African religion and principles. You could almost say this is an Afrocentric support of Blacks in same-sex romantic relationships. This is a book that Black gay male and lesbian activists all over the Diaspora need to own and read. Some may want to read this book alongside "African Homosexualities." When quoting informants, Dr. Wekker uses their actual Surinamese language and then translates it into English. For polyglots and those familiar with the Dutch-speaking world, this may be informative. However, there is a way that it just takes up space. This book would have been 50 pages shorter without it. Perhaps, Dr. Wekker wants readers to inhabit multilingual terrains, as Gloria Anzaldúa did. Still, I think readers like me who don't understand any form of Dutch will skip through a lot. I did love some of the colorful idioms and phrases here. One Surinamese woman says, "Only god knows why he didn't give the horse horns." I'm still trying to find a way to use that phrase in 21st-century America! (By the way, the author writes in American English, rather than British English.) Dr. Wekker tries to "keep it real." She stands against bourgeois posing intended to impress elite audiences. Still, there is a way that this book makes us Black people look bad. The book is filled with violence, sexual promiscuity, womanizing from either gender, disparagement of marriage, and other things that some may find objectionable. I do worry about what would happen if this book gets into the wrong people's

hands. You can see and hear the author in a documentary called "Middle Sexes" narrated by Gore Vidal. As women's studies departments become gender studies departments, readers may want to peruse this alongside Bana-Shute's book on Surinamese men.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Politics of Passion: Women's Sexual Culture in the Afro-Surinamese Diaspora (Between Men-Between Women: Lesbian and Gay Studies) How It Feels to Have a Gay or Lesbian Parent: A Book by Kids for Kids of All Ages (Haworth Gay and Lesbian Studies) What Men Won't Tell You: Women's Guide to Understanding Men (How to read their minds, what men want, why men cheat, why men won't commit, why men lose interest, how to avoid rejection from men) The Gay and Lesbian Theatrical Legacy: A Biographical Dictionary of Major Figures in American Stage History in the Pre-Stonewall Era (Triangulations: Lesbian/Gay/Queer Theater/Drama/Performance) Frommer's Gay and Lesbian Europe: The Top Cities & Resorts (Frommer's Gay & Lesbian Europe) Ashe, Traditional Religion and Healing in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Diaspora: A Classified International Bibliography (Bibliographies and Indexes in Afro-American and African Studies) Afro-Cuban Diasporas in the Atlantic World (Rochester Studies in African History and the Diaspora) The African Diaspora: Slavery, Modernity, and Globalization (Rochester Studies in African History and the Diaspora) In Exile: The History and Lore Surrounding New Orleans Gay Culture and Its Oldest Gay Bar (NoLa Gay Book 1) Ten Hot Tales of First Lesbian Sex: Lesbian Exploration in Sexy Situations. Ten Explicit Lesbian Erotica Stories My Lesbian Mistress - 5 Dominant Submissive Lesbian Novellas: Lesbian Domination Submission Spanking Penance BDSM Encounters You're Not from Around Here, Are You?: A Lesbian in Small-Town America (Living Out: Gay and Lesbian Autobiog) A Passion to Preserve: Gay Men as Keepers of Culture Forging Diaspora: Afro-Cubans and African Americans in a World of Empire and Jim Crow (Envisioning Cuba) Not Gay: Sex between Straight White Men (Sexual Cultures) Artists, Performers, and Black Masculinity in the Haitian Diaspora (Blacks in the Diaspora) An Underground Life: Memoirs of a Gay Jew in Nazi Berlin (Living Out: Gay and Lesbian Autobiographies) An Underground Life: Memoirs of a Gay Jew in Nazi Berlin (Living Out: Gay and Lesbian Autobiog) The Last Deployment: How a Gay, Hammer-Swinging Twentysomething Survived a Year in Iraq (Living Out: Gay and Lesbian Autobiog) What If Someone I Know Is Gay?: Answers to Questions About What It Means to Be Gay and Lesbian

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)