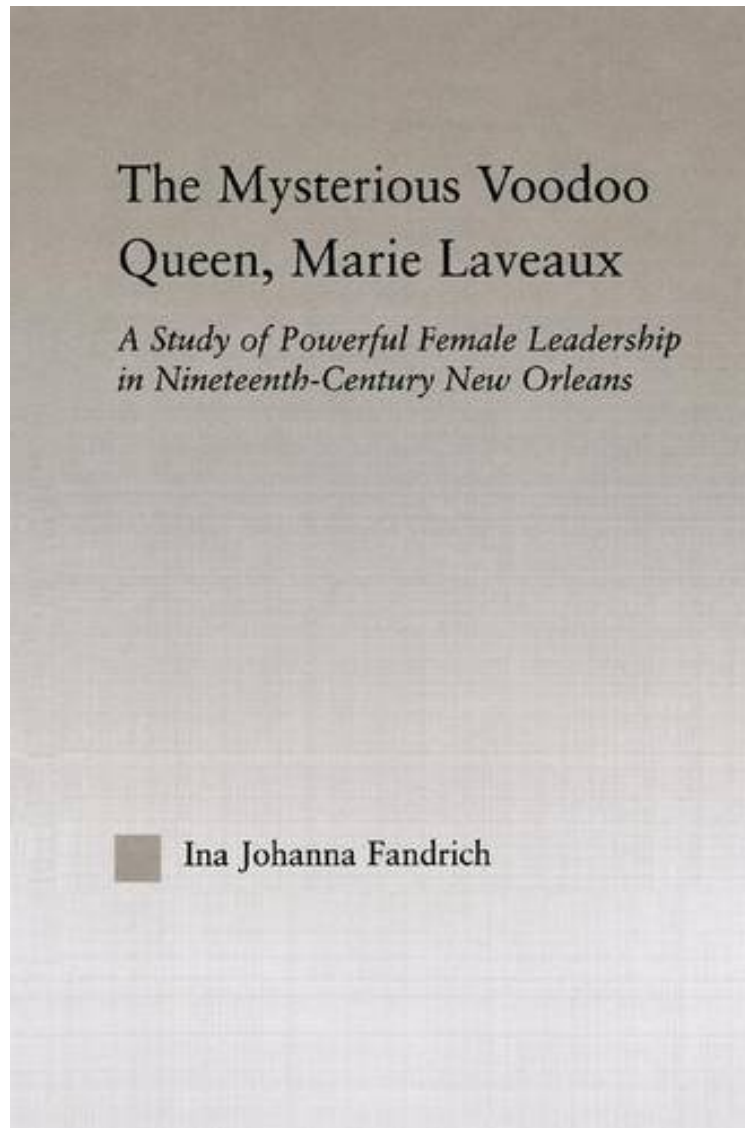


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## **The Mysterious Voodoo Queen, Marie Laveaux: A Study of Powerful Female Leadership in Nineteenth Century New Orleans (Studies in African American History and Culture)**

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Dr. Fandrich has produced the first truly valuable study of Marie Laveaux for students and scholars of religion. She skillfully analyzes the historical fiction and popular legends surrounding New Orleans Voodoo and its most (in)famous Queen while explaining the roots of these myths through an explanation of Voodoo's development and history. Fandrich's personal research in the archives of New Orleans certainly paid off for her. Her hard work uncovered Laveaux's birth certificate (long thought lost) and thus gives a new and definite historicity to her subject. Instead of reading like a popular New Orleans tour book, this serious analysis of Marie Laveaux's life and the society that gave rise to her legend has a solid methodology. Both interesting and carefully researched down to the smallest detail, this book is a must have for any serious student of New Orleans, Voodoo, and African-American/Afro-Caribbean religions.  
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This is by far the best book I have read on the subject of Marie Laveaux. Dr. Fandrich not only captures the historical context of New Orleans before and during Marie Laveaux's lifetime she also captures and explains the spiritual basis for New Orleans Voodoo. I find the book to be refreshing and informative. This book is full of historical information but at the same time is very interesting and is a fast read. This book is bound to be seen as the most important book on the subject of Marie Laveaux. Finally a book that provided me with information about questions I have been searching for in regards to this mysterious woman. Thank you Dr. Fandrich!!!

This study investigates the emergence of powerful female leadership in New Orleans' Voodoo tradition. It provides a careful examination of the cultural, historical, economic, demographic and socio-political factors that contributed both to the feminization of this religious culture and its strong female leaders.