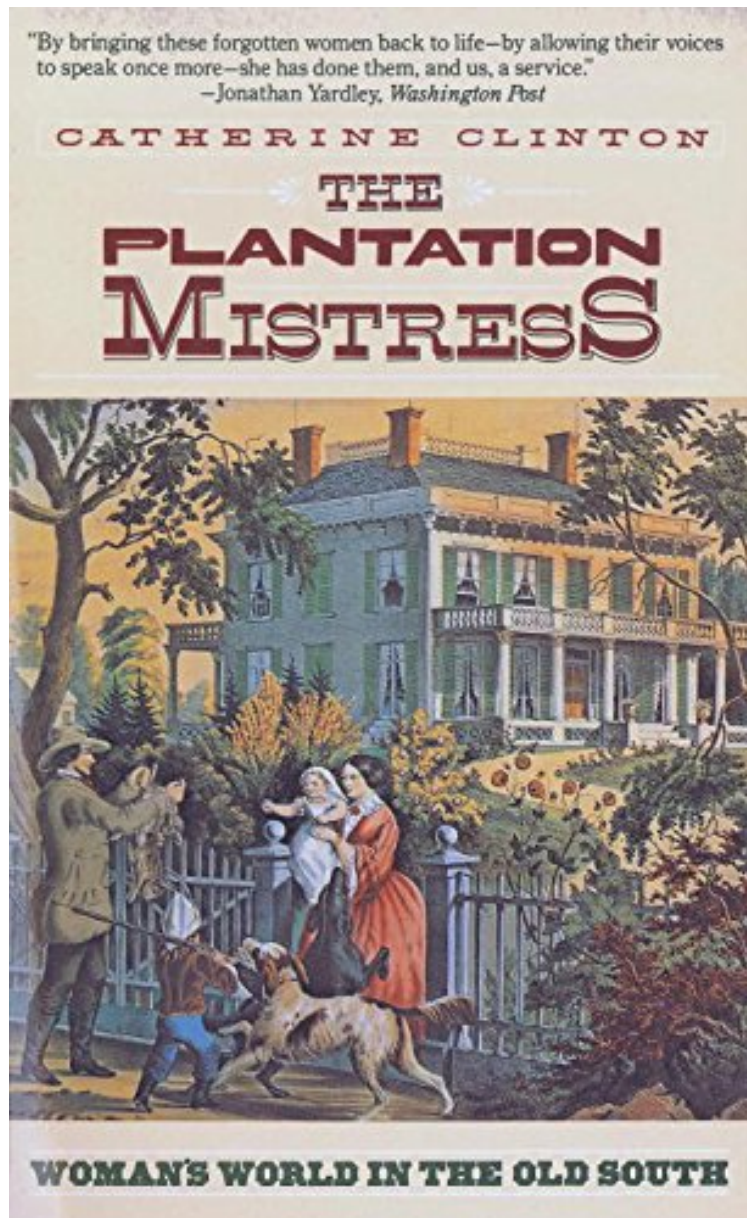


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The Plantation Mistress: Woman's World in the Old South

Catherine Clinton

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Catherine Clinton : The Plantation Mistress: Woman's World in the Old South before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Plantation Mistress: Woman's World in the Old South:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Southern Belle Worked to the Bone By Alexa Porter Fascinating

reading if you like history. True history! This doesn't sugar coat anything, "tells it like it is". Apparently the wealthy ladies in the South didn't spend a lot of time on the veranda sipping lemonade as we thought. They worked their little derrieres off, being responsible, for instance, for personally sewing all the clothes for all the people on the plantation - her family and the slaves, perhaps a 100 or more of them. In one part, if memory serves, it says that to knit ONE sock took 6 days which seems hardly reasonable but, the author did the research. So you have two socks for every one in your family and two socks for each slave and worker on the plantation - and more than one pair each! The "Lady" knitted them along with other family women and slave women who worked in the "Big House". There were other such duties which left almost no time for being a "Southern Lady" with a fan and a julep. It's really an eye opener and will change your mind about living back in the 1800's! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. easy read. By Julia Taylor Finally a book that hits a home run portraying the authentic truth of the old south and the plantation mistress. I have read numerous journals written by women of the era and, in fact, am as close as a great-grandfather who fought for the confederacy (and I was raised by his son--grandfather). This book paints the most accurate picture that I have found, however the writers feminist views bleeds through at times. Also, the writing is a doctoral project, so keep that in mind and do not expect a breezy, easy read. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Plantation Mistress - Great Read By Carolyn W. Cole This book is just plain enjoyable! Anyone that likes to read about years gone by and the days on the plantation, you will love this book. I added this book to my "keep" collection and will share it with family and friends. This book is different and interesting!

This pioneering study of the much-mythologized Southern belle offers the first serious look at the lives of white women and their harsh and restricted place in the slave society before the Civil War. Drawing on the diaries, letters, and memoirs of hundreds of planter wives and daughters, Clinton sets before us in vivid detail the daily life of the plantation mistress and her ambiguous intermediary position in the hierarchy between slave and master. "The Plantation Mistress challenges and reinterprets a host of issues related to the Old South. The result is a book that forces us to rethink some of our basic assumptions about two peculiar institutions -- the slave plantation and the nineteenth-century family. It approaches a familiar subject from a new angle, and as a result, permanently alters our understanding of the Old South and women's place in it.

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