



The Politics of Passion: Women's Sexual Culture in the Afro-Surinamese Diaspora (Between Men-Between Women: Lesbian and Gay Studies)

By Gloria Wekker

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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.

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About the Author

Wekker is a full professor of women's studies at Utrecht University-the second black woman so honored in the Netherlands. She received her Ph.D. in sociocultural anthropology from UCLA. She has published several books in Dutch and a number of articles in English. In 2000-2001 she was a visiting Scholar at the Oral History Project at Columbia.

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