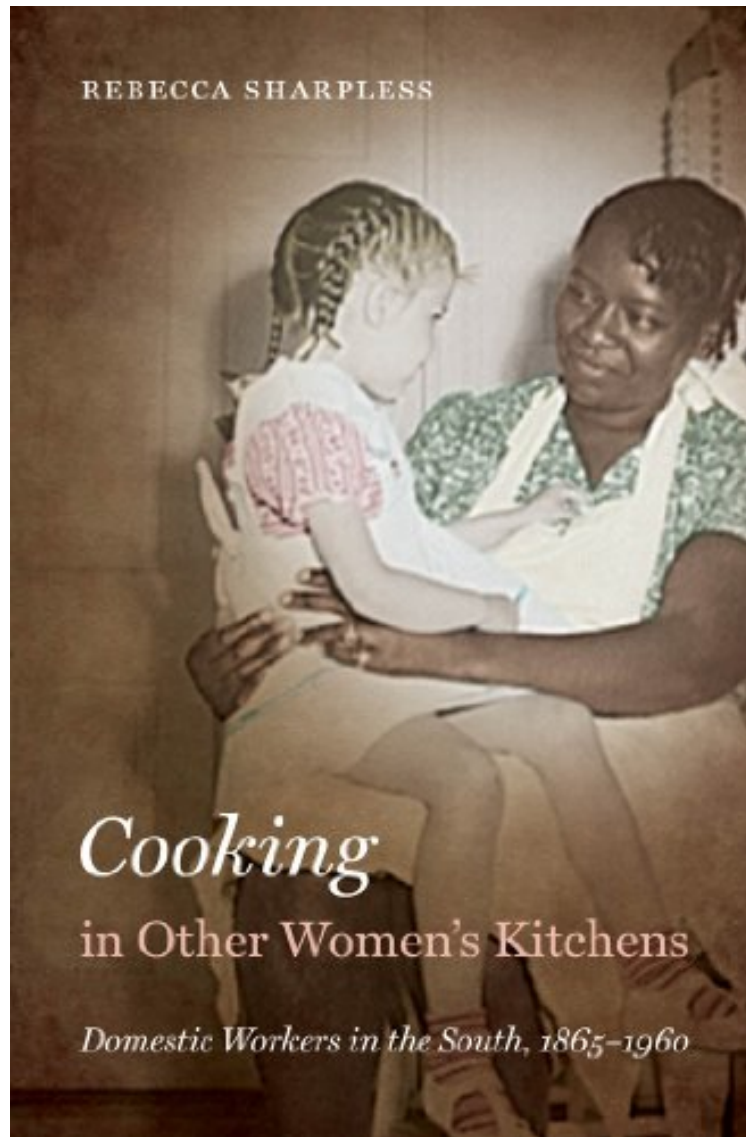


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Cooking in Other Women's Kitchens: Domestic Workers in the South, 1865-1960 (The John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture)

Rebecca Sharpless

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Rebecca Sharpless : Cooking in Other Women's Kitchens: Domestic Workers in the South, 1865-1960 (The John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Cooking in Other Women's Kitchens: Domestic Workers in*

the South, 1865-1960 (The John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I really enjoyed this! Sharpless's use of a variety of voices ...By AiI really enjoyed this! Sharpless's use of a variety of voices and stories really lend weight to her story, and was a really great, refreshing look at the work that Black women were doing as domestic workers. The number of historical actors she highlights may get a little dizzying at times, as she moves thematically rather than chronologically, but it really worked well for me, and I think her explicit disavowal of the "Mammy" stereotype is very effective.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Lesson in HistoryBy HoneyGold"Cooking in Other Women's Kitchens: Domestic Workers in the South, 1865-1960 is a must read. It shows the determination of working Black women who regarded their profession with dignity and fought for better wages before it became a universal women's movement.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is an excellent, fascinating studyBy CathyThis is an excellent, fascinating study, and an important history of African American women as household workers. Compelling and well-researched.

As African American women left the plantation economy behind, many entered domestic service in southern cities and towns. Cooking was one of the primary jobs they performed, feeding generations of white families and, in the process, profoundly shaping southern foodways and culture. Rebecca Sharpless argues that, in the face of discrimination, long workdays, and low wages, African American cooks worked to assert measures of control over their own lives. As employment opportunities expanded in the twentieth century, most African American women chose to leave cooking for more lucrative and less oppressive manufacturing, clerical, or professional positions. Through letters, autobiography, and oral history, Sharpless evokes African American women's voices from slavery to the open economy, examining their lives at work and at home.

Thanks to Professor Sharpless for allowing these cooks to make real the travails and triumphs they endured. May her volume continue to break down the stereotypes that plague us to this day.--GastronomicaSkillfully researched, lucidly written, and thoughtful. . . . This book appears at a crucial moment, presenting a beautifully crafted historical narrative that contextualizes Kathryn Stockett's *The Help*. . . . Highly recommended.--ChoiceSharpless presents a visceral and engaging account of each passing moment in the day of an African-American cook.--Georgia Historical QuarterlySharpless labors to fill a pantry with stories from the legion of southerners who experienced a remarkable slice of American history.--Ohio Valley HistoryAn intriguing account of the personal and public lives of African American domestic workers from Reconstruction to the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement.--Southern CulturesUsing plantation account books, memoirs from servants, Federal Writers' Project narratives, cookbooks, and census records, Sharpless excavates the experiences of the black domestic working class in the South.--Journal of African American HistoryExpertly details the changes in African American women's economic and employment opportunities from emancipation until the middle of the Civil Rights Movement. . . . [A] fine work.--Journal of Social History[An] excellent new history of African American cooks in the U.S. South Sharpless's book offers a valuable model for labor historians, as it portrays work and life as inextricably linked but not mutually definitive.--American Historical Sharpless' book is wonderfully detailed, and provides voice for the often overlooked African-American domestic. . . . Highly recommended.--Labour/Le TravailThe robust descriptions of cooks' day-to-day tasks, their relationships with employers, and personal lives enrich the literature on domestic workers by drawing attention to specializations within the domestic-work labor market.--Register of the Kentucky Historical SocietyA fresh and engaging read.--Journal of Southern HistoryA fascinating examination of black women's domestic employment as they transitioned from being slaves to being free laborers.--The North Carolina Historical Well written, painstakingly researched, and carefully situated in the scholarly literature about foodways A rich and much needed addition." --Florida Historical QuarterlySharpless offers an in-depth and complete portrait of African American cooks and the nature of their work and lives in this period. The cooks' voices are very compelling, and Sharpless does a good job of letting them largely speak for themselves.--Oral History Forum Anyone who wants to know the real story behind Kathryn Stockett's book *The Help* will savor *Cooking in Other Women's Kitchens*, Rebecca Sharpless's compelling history of southern domestic work. It's a riveting read and it's nonfiction.--Jessica B. Harris, Queens College, author of *Iron Pots and Wooden Spoons: Africa's Gifts to New World Cooking*Sharpless's engaging use of primary evidence allows African American cooks themselves to define, describe, and interpret their work, their skills, and the contours of their lives. This book is a pleasure to read and an important, impressive piece of scholarship.--Lu Ann Jones, author of *Mama Learned Us to Work: Farm Women in the New South*From the Inside FlapAs African American women left slavery and the plantation economy behind, many entered domestic service in southern cities and towns. Cooking was one of the primary tasks they performed in white employers' homes, profoundly shaping southern foodways and culture. In the face of discrimination, long workdays, and low wages, African American cooks worked to assert measures of control over their own lives. As employment opportunities expanded in the twentieth century, most African American women chose to leave cooking for more lucrative and less oppressive manufacturing, clerical, or

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