



Caribbean Middlebrow: Leisure Culture and the Middle Class (Hardback)

By Belinda Edmondson

Cornell University Press, United States, 2009. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 236 x 163 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. It is commonly assumed that Caribbean culture is split into elite highbrow culture which is considered derivative of Europe and not rooted in the Caribbean and authentic working-class culture, which is often identified with such iconic island activities as salsa, carnival, calypso, and reggae. In Caribbean Middlebrow, Belinda Edmondson recovers a middle ground, a genuine popular culture in the English-speaking Caribbean that stretches back into the nineteenth century. Edmondson shows that popular novels, beauty pageants, and music festivals are examples of Caribbean culture that are mostly created, maintained, and consumed by the Anglophone middle class. Much of middle-class culture, she finds, is further gendered as female : women are more apt to be considered recreational readers of fiction, for example, and women s behavior outside the home is often taken as a measure of their community s respectability. Edmondson also highlights the influence of American popular culture, especially African American popular culture, as early as the nineteenth century. This is counter to the notion that the islands were exclusively under the sway of British tastes and trends. She finds the origins of...



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