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Black Women As Cultural Readers



Synopsis

Bobo demonstrates that African-American women, as a separate interpretive community, view cultural products in a unique way. In interviews with black women, she examines their specific responses as spectators and consumers of films and novels, including *Waiting to Exhale*, *The Color Purple*, and *Daughters of the Dust*.

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"A pathbreaking study of African-American women's responses to literature and film... Bobo focuses on a small group of middle-class African-American women as they process literature (by Terry McMillan, Alice Walker) that addresses their own experiences... This work should command the attention of all scholars of American popular culture." -- "Choice"

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Bobo is a well-respected African-American woman in film studies. In this book, she notes the severe lack of studies out there on black female viewing habits and then presents this book as her intervention against this paucity. The book can be broken down into two parts. In one part, Bobo summarizes the feelings of a dozen black women as they watch *Color Purple* and *Daughters of the Dust*, two nominally womanist movies. In the second part, Bobo includes her own essays on why Steven Spielberg's movie betrays Walker's text, etc. This book may feel essentialist and highly unscientific to some readers. However, it was good for what it proposed. I think it would be a nice addition to any collection of texts on women of color or womanism.

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