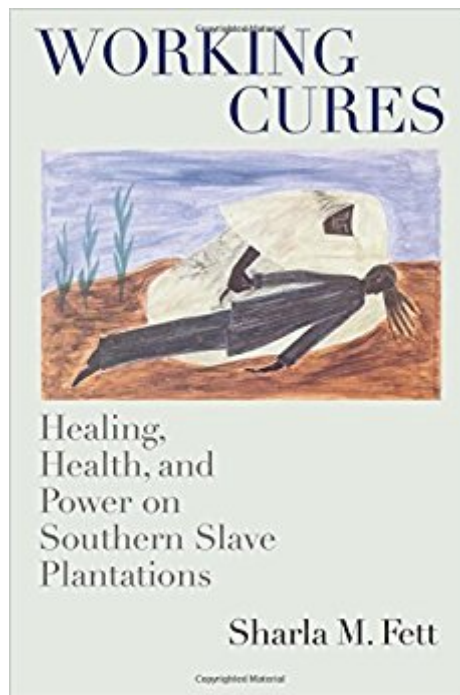


The book was found

# Working Cures: Healing, Health, And Power On Southern Slave Plantations (Gender And American Culture)



## Synopsis

Exploring the charged topic of black health under slavery, Sharla Fett reveals how herbalism, conjuring, midwifery, and other African American healing practices became arts of resistance in the antebellum South. Fett shows how enslaved men and women drew on African precedents to develop a view of health and healing that was distinctly at odds with slaveholders' property concerns. While white slaveowners narrowly defined slave health in terms of "soundness" for labor, slaves embraced a relational view of health that was intimately tied to religion and community. African American healing practices thus not only restored the body but also provided a formidable weapon against white objectification of black health. Enslaved women played a particularly important role in plantation health culture: they made medicines, cared for the sick, and served as midwives in both black and white households. Their labor as health workers not only proved essential to plantation production but also gave them a basis of authority within enslaved communities. Not surprisingly, conflicts frequently arose between slave doctoring women and the whites who attempted to supervise their work, as did conflicts related to feigned illness, poisoning threats, and African-based religious practices. By examining the deeply contentious dynamics of plantation healing, Fett sheds new light on the broader power relations of antebellum American slavery.

## Book Information

Series: Gender and American Culture

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: The University of North Carolina Press; New edition edition (May 6, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 080785378X

ISBN-13: 978-0807853788

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.8 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #91,389 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in Books > Textbooks >

Medicine & Health Sciences > Medicine > Special Topics > History #123 in Books > Medical

Books > History #228 in Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Gender Studies

## Customer Reviews

In this work, which is based on her 1995 Rutgers University dissertation, Fett assesses slave health

and medical care in the U.S. South. She portrays slave society as a culture that developed its own healing methods while subject to abuse and racist theories from white medical practitioners. Slave healthcare was an amalgam of various African tribal traditions transmuted by their dispersal throughout the South. Important to these systems were such factors as kinship relations in the community and the role of slave women in healing practices. White medical care of slaves concentrated on their fitness for labor in the household or fields. Written in a lively and engaging style, this book is a unique overview of the complex interaction of white and slave medical care in the antebellum South. Fett, who is currently a visiting scholar at the University of California, Los Angeles, also provides an important background to African American health since the end of slavery. Recommended for academic and large public libraries. A.J. Wright, Univ. of Alabama Lib., Birmingham Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Written in a lively and engaging style, this book is a unique overview of the complex interaction of white and slave medical care in the antebellum South. ("Library Journal")Digs into an area of slave health untouched by previous historians. (Todd L. Savitt, author of "Medicine and Slavery: The Diseases and Health Care of Blacks in Antebellum Virginia")Reveals how African Americans developed a distinctive health culture that drew on a panoply of therapies, remedies, and botanical knowledge from African, European, and Native American sources. (Tera W. Hunter, author of "To 'Joy My Freedom: Southern Black Women's Lives and Labors after the Civil War")"Incorporates and contributes to a wide range of existing scholarship on the history of medicine, the Atlantic world, and the religious, cultural, and social dimensions of the African American slave community." -- "Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Science"

Fett's work is clearly deeply rooted in the archives as she gives us a nuanced depiction of health and well being on 19th century plantations in the VA tidewater and SC low country. While health and well being were clearly a means to an economic end for the slave holder, Fett also shows how healing, as a form of African cultural retention, was a means of resistance and community building for the enslaved. This work should not be overlooked in the study of slavery in the American South as it is a wonderful study of power and cultural developmeny on the plantation.

So many people attribute African American healing to other cultures, particularly European Americans or Native Americans. While there were bound to be cultural sharing, Professor Sharla Fett makes it perfectly clear that enslaved Africans brought their own wisdom with them concerning

farming and healing, as well as certain medicinal plants, with them to the Americas during the Middle Passage. "Working Cures" is an outstanding contribution to understanding distinctly American contributions to healing made by African Americans. Fett also presents the history of conjure, root doctoring, midwifery and a great deal more as it relates to medicine and healing in the African American community. Fett also illustrates the mind/body/spirit, holistic approach of African healing employed by African Americans. "Working Cures" is essential reading for those interested in learning the unique aspects of African American healing in the United States.

One of the few books of its kind

Fett presented the dynamics of plantation health and medicine well in this book. She showed how enslaved men and women used their own developed health practices as a form of power and resistance during slavery, denying their labeling as purely property while also holding on to some of their African culture. I appreciate this text, but I enjoyed more a similar text by Marie Jenkins Schwartz, entitled *Birthing a Slave: Motherhood and Medicine in the antebellum South*. Schwartz touched on many of the same points, but focused more on power dynamics between physician, master and bondsmen and included so many more stories that are easier to read than loaded text. Fett authored a good and informative book, just wasn't the most enjoyable for me to read.

Excellent information about healing, herbs, and African American midwives in the antebellum period. Highly recommended for readers interested in health, birthing, and midwives in the African American community during that time. Unexpectedly, also great art!

Too pedantic. No specific recipes and very little on the use of hoodoo

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Working Cures: Healing, Health, and Power on Southern Slave Plantations (Gender and American Culture) Southern Cooking: Southern Cooking Cookbook - Southern Cooking Recipes - Southern Cooking Cookbooks - Southern Cooking for Thanksgiving - Southern Cooking Recipes - Southern Cooking Cookbook Recipes Cancer: Taboo Cancer Cures 6 Impressive and Secret Cancer Cures that Most People do not know about (Cancer, Cancer Cures, Yoga, Cancer Treatments, Cancer Medicine, Cancer Patient Book 1) Southern Cooking: for beginners - Simple Southern Food Recipes - Old South Recipes (Southern Food - Southern Meals - Southern Recipes - Soul Food - American Cuisine Book 1) Healing: Reclaim Your Health: Self Healing Techniques: Fasting, Meditation,

Prayer, Healing Medicine, and Energy Work (Channeling, Shamanism, Chakra Healing, ... Qigong Healing, Ayahuasca Book 1) A Tale of Two Plantations: Slave Life and Labor in Jamaica and Virginia Maria Treben's Cures: Letters and Accounts of Cures through the Herbal "Health Through God's Pharmacy" Crystals and Gemstones: Healing The Body Naturally (Chakra Healing, Crystal Healing, Self Healing, Reiki Healing) Travesti: Sex, Gender, and Culture among Brazilian Transgendered Prostitutes (Worlds of Desire: The Chicago Series on Sexuality, Gender, and Culture) Re-Visioning Family Therapy, Second Edition: Race, Culture, and Gender in Clinical Practice (Revisioning Family Therapy: Race, Culture, & Gender in) Gender Born, Gender Made: Raising Healthy Gender-Nonconforming Children The Gender Game 5: The Gender Fall: The Gender Game, Book 5 Nail Fungus Treatment: Cure Nail Fungus Naturally With This Fast Toenail Fungus Treatment and Toenail Fungus Cures (nail fungus cures, nail fungus treatment, nail fungus) Insider-cures against cancer: 54 Insider-cures, scientifically founded, over 100 study sources + experience reports High Blood Pressure Cure: How To Lower Blood Pressure Naturally in 30 Days (Alternative Medicine, Natural Cures, Natural Remedies, High Blood Pressure ... Cures for High Blood Pressure, High BI) Gender and Jim Crow: Women and the Politics of White Supremacy in North Carolina, 1896-1920 (Gender and American Culture) Common Sense and a Little Fire: Women and Working-Class Politics in the United States, 1900-1965 (Gender and American Culture) Reiki: The Healing Energy of Reiki - Beginner's Guide for Reiki Energy and Spiritual Healing: Reiki: Easy and Simple Energy Healing Techniques Using the ... Energy Healing for Beginners Book 1) Crystals: The Ultimate Guide To: Energy Fields, Auras, Chakras and Emotional Healing (Aura, Healing Stones, Crystal Energy, Crystal Healing, Energy Fields, Emotional Healing, Gemstone) Crystal Healing: Simple Guide To Understanding The Benefits Of Crystals (Healing Stones ,Energy Healing,Crystal Healing Book 2)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)