



White Trash: Race and Class in America

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

This collection of essays suffers somewhat from occasional appearances in its pages of the plodding and pretentious prose of academia, but despite that fault, these essays on poor white Americans are, in general, quite interesting. To be honest, when the scholars trip over their jargon while explaining why Bubba and Jolene constitute a "debased other," it can be more fun than a free Pabst beer at the monster truck pull. Some essays stand out. Writer Michael Berube's memoir of life in a 1950s trailer park in Bayonne, New Jersey, is well-written and touching; and University of Southern California film professor Constance Penley's disquisition on white trash pornography, entitled "Crackers and Whackers" is bound to raise eyebrows. And Gael Sweeney provides the fitting finale, an essay entitled "The King of White Trash Culture: Elvis Presley and the Aesthetics of Excess."

Review

"[T]he essays in Matt Wray and Annalee Newitz's "White Trash: Race and Class in America forcefully peel away many common assumptions about the relations between race and privilege. The essays in "White Trash interweave the personal and the "objective" to demonstrate the interdependence of experience and knowledge necessary to understand as false what has to date been assumed as normative in our cultural identity: that "white" is both classless and privileged. "White Trash offers a slash-and-burn approach that others will appreciate, targeting the intersection of race and class in white culture as the invisible site of contradiction that allows whiteness to be understood as raceless and classless."

- "Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society

"White Trash...contribute(s) some important new voices to the current culture wars."

- "Boston Review of Books ..a new collection of stunningly didactic essays in cultural criticism...Welcome to the newest fad in academia: white studies.

From the Back Cover

Poor or marginal whites occupy an uncharted space in recent identity studies, particularly because they do not easily fit the model of whiteness-as-power proposed by many multiculturalist or minority discourses. Associated in mainstream culture with "trashy" kitsch or dangerous pathologies rather than with the material realities of economic life, poor whites are treated as degraded caricatures rather than as real people living in conditions of poverty and disempowerment. White Trash situates the study of poor whites within the context of several academic disciplines, public-policy analysis, and popular or mass-media representations. Arguing that white racism is directed not only against people of color but also against certain groups of whites, the contributors to this volume explore the ways in which race and class in America are often talked about and represented in hidden, coded, or half-realized ways. In so doing, they demonstrate why the term white trash itself embodies yet another way in which some whites generate a debased "other" through pejorative naming practices.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lucy Broussard:

This White Trash: Race and Class in America book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is information inside this reserve incredible

fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This White Trash: Race and Class in America without we realize teach the one who looking at it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry White Trash: Race and Class in America can bring whenever you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even phone. This White Trash: Race and Class in America having very good arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

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Jason Rickman:

White Trash: Race and Class in America can be one of your basic books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to put every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing White Trash: Race and Class in America although doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource information that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information could drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial imagining.

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