



## Claiming the Pen: Women and Intellectual Life in the Early American South

By Catherine Kerrison

Cornell University Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 288 pages. In 1711, the imperious Virginia patriarch William Byrd II spitefully refused his wife Lucys plea for a book; a century later, Lady Jean Skipwith placed an order that sent the Virginia bookseller Joseph Swan scurrying to please. These vignettes bracket a century of change in white southern womens lives. Claiming the Pen offers the first intellectual history of early southern women. It situates their reading and writing within the literary culture of the wider Anglo-Atlantic world, thus far understood to be a masculine province, even as they inhabited the limited, provincial social circles of the plantation South. Catherine Kerrison uncovers a new realm of female education in which conduct-of-life adviceboth the dry pedantry of sermons and the risqu plots of novelsformed the core reading program. Women, she finds, learned to think and write by reading prescriptive literature, not Greek and Latin classics, in impromptu home classrooms, rather than colleges and universities, and from kin and friends, rather than schoolmates and professors. Kerrison also reveals that southern women, in their willingness to take up the pen and so claim new rights, seized upon their racial superiority to offset their gender inferiority. In depriving...

DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE  
[ 5.08 MB ]

### Reviews

*A new electronic book with a new perspective. Better then never, though i am quite late in start reading this one. Your life period will be change the instant you comprehensive looking at this pdf.*

-- **Dr. Constantin Marks II**

*It is simple in study easier to fully grasp. It is definitely basic but unexpected situations within the fifty percent in the ebook. I am delighted to let you know that this is actually the finest publication i have got read inside my own life and could be he very best ebook for actually.*

-- **Destiny Walsh**