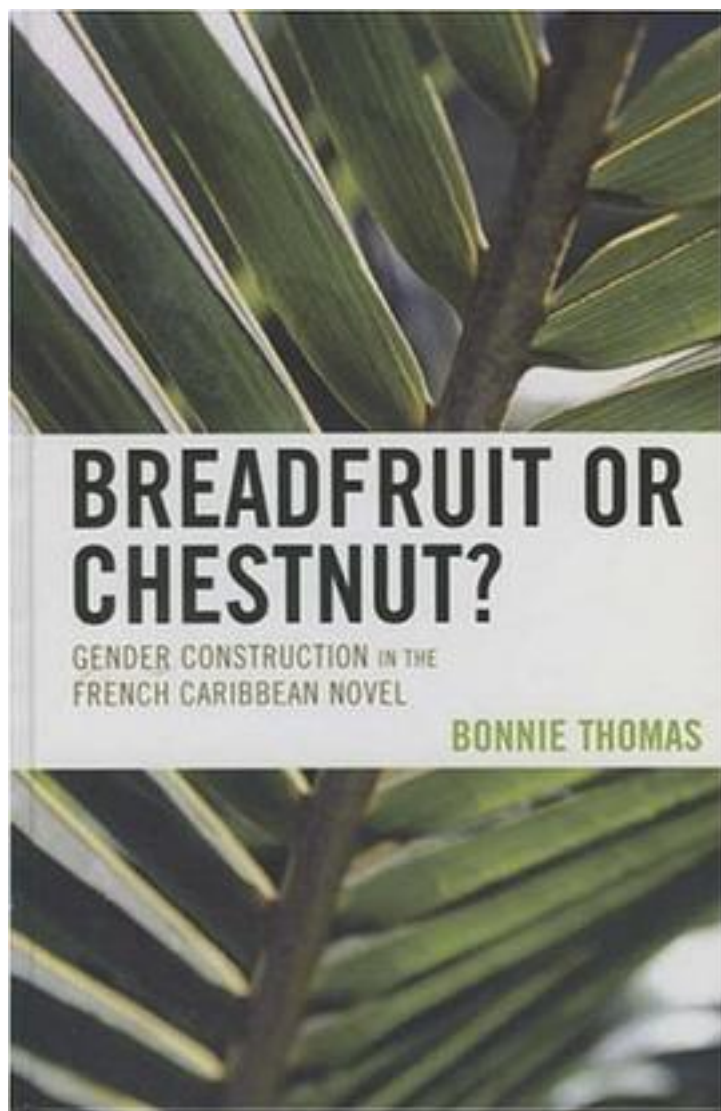


Breadfruit or Chestnut?



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Breadfruit or Chestnut? examines gender construction comparatively across the fiction of contemporary writers of Guadeloupe and Martinique. In particular, it explores the construction of gender identity by six authors-three male and three female-who have never been brought together in a study of this issue. Rather than following the trend of studying theory and cultural identity in the central male writers and of studying "women's writing" in the works of the female writers, Thomas expertly blurs these traditional boundaries in order to present an unexplored aspect of identity. In addition to illuminating women's conception of gender, this work examines the male equivalent and how each gender observes and perceives the other. Breadfruit or Chestnut? not only contextualizes the primary literature, but also draws on contemporary theoretical debates surrounding feminism, subjectivity, and postcolonialism. The combination of literary and historical tools of analysis allows for a deeper probing into gender relations in the French Caribbean.

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目录:

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