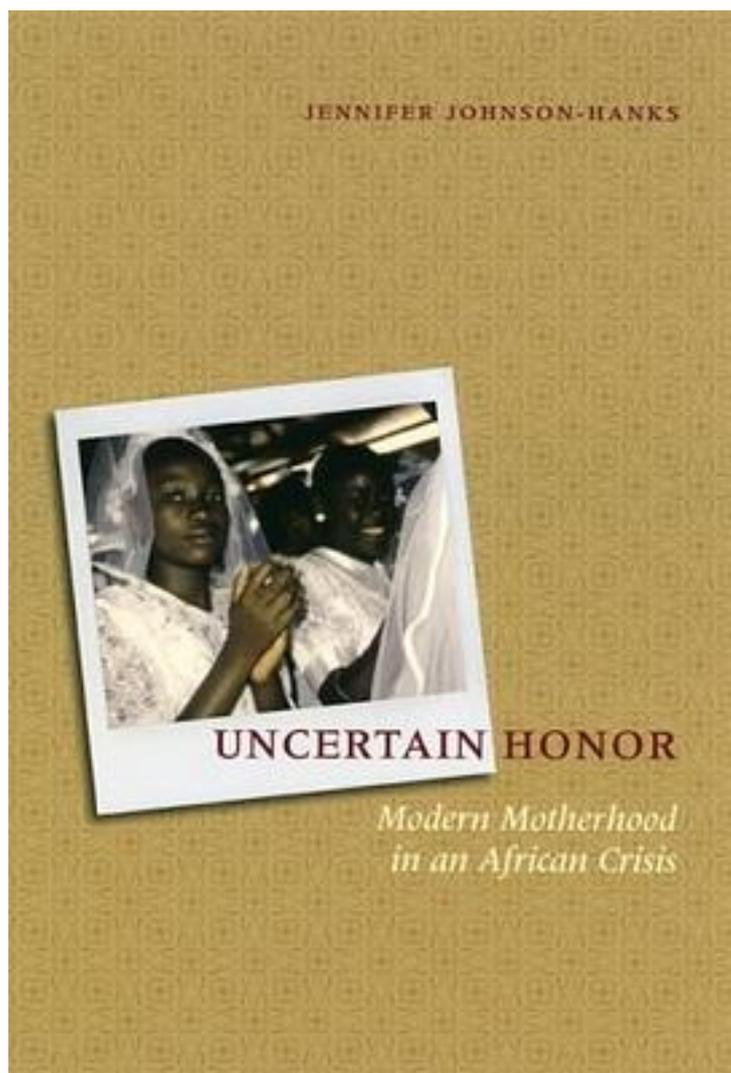


Uncertain Honor



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出版者:Univ of Chicago Pr

出版时间:2005-12

装帧:HRD

isbn:9780226401812

In most countries, educated women have fewer children and have them later than uneducated women. In "Uncertain Honor", Jennifer Johnson-Hanks argues that this demographic fact has social causes by offering a rich case study of contraception, abortion, and informal adoption among educated, ethnic Beti women in southern Cameroon. Combining insights from demography and cultural anthropology, Johnson-Hanks argues that Beti women delay motherhood as part of a broader attempt to assert a modern form of honor only recently made possible by formal education, Catholicism, and economic change. Through itinerant school careers and manipulations of marriage, educated Beti women now manage their status as mothers in order to coordinate major life events in the face of social and economic uncertainty. Carefully researched and clearly written, "Uncertain Honor" offers an intimate look at the lives of African women trying to reconcile motherhood with new professional roles in a context of dramatic social change.

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