



The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition

By Kim Marie Vaz

Download now

Read Online ➔

The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition By Kim Marie Vaz

One of the first women's organizations to "mask" in a Mardi Gras parade, the "Million Dollar Baby Dolls" redefined the New Orleans carnival tradition. Tracing their origins from Storyville brothels and dance halls to their re-emergence in post-Katrina New Orleans, author Kim Vaz uncovers the fascinating history of the "raddy-walking, shake-dancing, cigar-smoking, money-flinging" ladies that strutted their way into a predominantly male establishment.

The Baby Dolls formed around 1912 as an organization for African American women who used their profits from working in New Orleans's red-light district to compete with other black women in their profession on Mardi Gras. Part of this competition involved the tradition of masking in which carnival groups create a collective identity through costuming. Their baby doll costumes—short satin dresses, stockings with garters, and bonnets—set against their bold and provocative public behavior not only exploited stereotypes but also empowered and made visible an otherwise marginalized demographic of women.

In addition to their subversive presence at Mardi Gras, the Baby Dolls helped shape the sound of jazz in the city. The Baby Dolls often worked in and patronized dance halls and honky-tonks, where they introduced new dance steps and challenged house musicians to keep up the beat. The entrepreneurial Baby Dolls also sponsored dances with live jazz bands, effectively underwriting the advancement of an art form now inseparable from New Orleans's identity.

Over time, the Baby Doll's members diverged as different neighborhoods adopted the tradition. Groups such as the Golden Slipper Club, the Gold Diggers, the Rosebud Social and Pleasure Club, and the Satin Sinners stirred the creative imagination of middle-class Black women and men across New Orleans, from the downtown Tremé area to the uptown community of Mahalia Jackson.

Vaz follows the Baby Doll phenomenon through one hundred years of photos, articles, and interviews to conclude with the birth of contemporary groups such as the modern day Antoinette K-Doe's Ernie K-Doe Baby Dolls, the New Orleans

Society of Dance's Baby Doll Ladies, and the Tremé Million Dollar Baby Dolls. Her book celebrates these organizations' crucial contribution to Louisiana's cultural history.

 [Download The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race an ...pdf](#)

The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition

By Kim Marie Vaz

The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition By Kim Marie Vaz

One of the first women's organizations to "mask" in a Mardi Gras parade, the "Million Dollar Baby Dolls" redefined the New Orleans carnival tradition. Tracing their origins from Storyville brothels and dance halls to their re-emergence in post-Katrina New Orleans, author Kim Vaz uncovers the fascinating history of the "raddy-walking, shake-dancing, cigar-smoking, money-flinging" ladies that strutted their way into a predominantly male establishment.

The Baby Dolls formed around 1912 as an organization for African American women who used their profits from working in New Orleans's red-light district to compete with other black women in their profession on Mardi Gras. Part of this competition involved the tradition of masking in which carnival groups create a collective identity through costuming. Their baby doll costumes—short satin dresses, stockings with garters, and bonnets—set against their bold and provocative public behavior not only exploited stereotypes but also empowered and made visible an otherwise marginalized demographic of women.

In addition to their subversive presence at Mardi Gras, the Baby Dolls helped shape the sound of jazz in the city. The Baby Dolls often worked in and patronized dance halls and honky-tonks, where they introduced new dance steps and challenged house musicians to keep up the beat. The entrepreneurial Baby Dolls also sponsored dances with live jazz bands, effectively underwriting the advancement of an art form now inseparable from New Orleans's identity.

Over time, the Baby Doll's members diverged as different neighborhoods adopted the tradition. Groups such as the Golden Slipper Club, the Gold Diggers, the Rosebud Social and Pleasure Club, and the Satin Sinners stirred the creative imagination of middle-class Black women and men across New Orleans, from the downtown Tremé area to the uptown community of Mahalia Jackson.

Vaz follows the Baby Doll phenomenon through one hundred years of photos, articles, and interviews to conclude with the birth of contemporary groups such as the modern day Antoinette K-Doe's Ernie K-Doe Baby Dolls, the New Orleans Society of Dance's Baby Doll Ladies, and the Tremé Million Dollar Baby Dolls. Her book celebrates these organizations' crucial contribution to Louisiana's cultural history.

The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition By Kim Marie Vaz

Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1057833 in Books
- Published on: 2013-01-18
- Released on: 2013-01-18
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1

- Dimensions: 9.10" h x .60" w x 6.00" l, .70 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 216 pages

 [Download The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race an ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition By Kim Marie Vaz

Editorial Review

Review

"An important scholarly effort for the history of not only women of color but also all women in the Bayou State and beyond. The anecdotal supplemented with the theoretical helps readers to think through complicated notions of the identity performances of these women." --*Journal of Southern History*

About the Author

Kim Marie Vaz is the associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of education at Xavier University of Louisiana. Her area of research is the use of expressive arts as a response to large-group social trauma.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Chapman:

The book The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable far more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem using your subject. If you can make examining a book The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition being your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your own personal capable, increase your knowledge about some or all subjects. You can know everything if you like open up and read a reserve The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or some others. So , how do you think about this e-book?

Dedra Clark:

The experience that you get from The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition may be the more deep you looking the information that hide in the words the more you get thinking about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to recognise but The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition giving you joy feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in particular way that can be understood by simply anyone who read that because the author of this reserve is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having that The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition instantly.

Candy Smith:

This book untitled The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras

Tradition to be one of several books this best seller in this year, that's because when you read this e-book you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy that book in the book store or you can order it by way of online. The publisher on this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, as you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this e-book from your list.

Glen Hall:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book may be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the guide untitled The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition can be very good book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Download and Read Online The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition By Kim Marie Vaz #ER8SOXVKJ6U

Read The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition By Kim Marie Vaz for online ebook

The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition By Kim Marie Vaz Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition By Kim Marie Vaz books to read online.

Online The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition By Kim Marie Vaz ebook PDF download

The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition By Kim Marie Vaz Doc

The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition By Kim Marie Vaz Mobipocket

The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition By Kim Marie Vaz EPub

ER8SOXVKJ6U: The 'Baby Dolls': Breaking the Race and Gender Barriers of the New Orleans Mardi Gras Tradition By Kim Marie Vaz