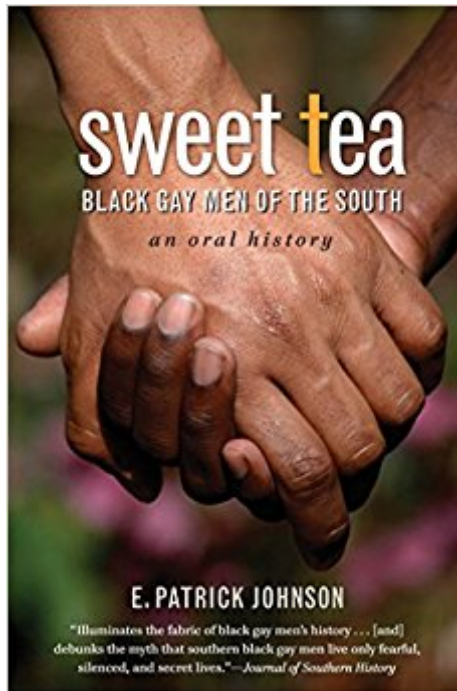




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Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men Of The South



Synopsis

Giving voice to a population too rarely acknowledged, *Sweet Tea* collects more than sixty life stories from black gay men who were born, raised, and continue to live in the South. E. Patrick Johnson challenges stereotypes of the South as "backward" or "repressive" and offers a window into the ways black gay men negotiate their identities, build community, maintain friendship networks, and find sexual and life partners--often in spaces and activities that appear to be antigay. Ultimately, *Sweet Tea* validates the lives of these black gay men and reinforces the role of storytelling in both African American and southern cultures.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Easily shatters many narrow perceptions around the intersections of class, sex, love, age, religion, family and gender expression in Southern communities, as well as the simple and complex reasons that the men profiled have chosen to remain in the south.--ColorLinesIt's pretty rare to pick up a book, turn randomly to any page, and find such a powerful personal story that you have to close the book for a moment to take it in. But the oral histories featured in *Sweet Tea* . . . cast just that kind of spell.--The AdvocateChallenges queer, black, men's, and southern historiographies. . . . Illuminates the fabric of black gay men's history . . . [and] debunks the myth that southern black gay men live only fearful, silenced, and secret lives.--Journal of Southern HistoryIn reading each colorful story, it seems as if the men are sitting right in front of you. . . . With nearly 46 percent of America's new HIV/AIDS cases occurring in the South, Johnson is serving the tea right on time.--POZThis fascinating . . . oral history subverts countless preconceptions in its illustration of black gay

subcultures thriving in just about every imaginable rural and religious milieu in the South. . . . The courage and honesty of Johnson's interviewees humble, and readers will find much to treasure in the stories.--Publishers Weekly

A variety of biases, oversights, and material circumstances have conspired to push the narratives of southern black gay lives to the margins. Sweet Tea makes a monumental achievement by getting these stories out into the world. Every subsequent, serious engagement with the topic will have to address Johnson's work. This book is certain to be consulted, referenced, and discussed for many years to come.--John Howard, author of *Men Like That: A Southern Queer History* and *Concentration Camps on the Home Front: Japanese Americans in the House of Jim Crow*

Sweet Tea is an amazing book. Engaging from the very start, it is well written and thought provoking throughout. There were times I simply could not put it down.--E. Lynn Harris, *New York Times* bestselling novelist

A compelling archive of stories often left unheard. Stories given magical life in performance by their brilliant archivist. A must read.--Houston A. Baker Jr., Distinguished University Professor, Vanderbilt University

I believe the author E. Patrick Johnson did a wonderful job of capturing the true spirit of the men that he interviewed for this book. The stories are told with humor...yet there is always a serious underlying message of what was really like for these men to grow up "being different" then perhaps their fathers, brothers, uncles, etc. This book will tug at your "heart strings" and you will always remember the men that you have read about and their challenges, successes, failures....you will know what it is to be loved or love in a way that it considered unconventional by many people in our society today. These characters are endearing and I'm so happy that E. Patrick Johnson took the time to tell their stories in his unique way. Brilliant.

Saw this play. Needed to get the book. Neither disappointed. If you get a chance to see E. Patrick Johnson perform this in person, it is a treat. It really brings a new perspective to a gay lifestyle that isn't often talked about and it brings to the front new issues about being a black, gay man in America. Truly a treat.

I haven't vомpleted it yet.

While E Patrick Johnson did a wonderful job with the introduction, he failed to keep my attention in

the actual book. It appears that the writer recorded all his interviews and then wrote the words of his interviews verbatim, including all the poorly structured wording we all can have when being interviewed, instead of spending time to clean up the actual interviewees thoughts and making it an easier read to follow and enjoy. Therefore I lost interest..

Wasn't what I expected. I donated it to my public library.

the book is wonderful and the one man show is just as delightful!

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