

Tekstboekje

Why no one loves a British tourist

Andrew Martin



1 THE HOLIDAY season has barely begun, and
already we've had a crackdown by Greek
police on British tourists in Faliraki on
Rhodes, with the episode of Simon Topp
5 showing his bottom, earning Simon a night in
jail. Now a British television crew is reported
to be under siege in its hotel, a Greek mob
outside blaming them for encouraging such
antics.
2 10 As if encouragement were needed. A
survey by the online travel service,
Expedia.co.uk, reveals that Britons are the
most unwelcome tourists of all. In seventeen
tourist offices around the world we've been
15 voted the rudest, least likely to speak the
lingo, least gastronomically adventurous. Our
overall score was minus 44 points. The
Germans were the winners with plus 41, and
there's a kind of symmetry in this since one

20 of the things that makes Britons abroad so
particularly unwelcome is our habit of
boasting about how we're better than the
Germans at everything.

3 Why do Britons treat 'abroad' as some
25 secret place of licence – like going behind the
bike sheds or, worse, going behind the hedge?
Back in the Seventies and Eighties I would
have said it was triggered by an inferiority
complex of the most agonising kind. I would
30 have said that this promoted a desire to
sabotage a pleasanter, better-ordered world
than our own. But now this country's
economy is strong, our PM popular abroad,
our football teams not too terrible. We often
35 read that we are the envy of the world.

4 So I now prefer a less inspired theory,
based on the physical environment of abroad.
The trains run more or less on time, it doesn't
always rain, the food tastes of something,
40 people say 'Good morning' in shops... Well,
it all goes to your head. And what goes to
your head fastest of all is the beer and wine
available all the time. Our body clocks are
still attuned to pubs closing at 11, and the
45 need to beat the deadline. A Briton going
from here to the more liberal licensing
regimes on the continent is in the position of a
prisoner coming out of jail after a long
sentence. And prisoners coming out of jail go
50 on binges.

The Observer

History on air



Not so new labour

Friday 18, 25 August
8.00pm
The History of Work
Radio 4

A JOB for life, we are often told, is a thing of the past. Traditional British working patterns have changed forever, to be replaced by a fluid, unstable workforce looking for work in the many

service industries that have grown from the ashes of heavy manufacturing.

But how accurate is our historical picture of the labour market? This series, presented by Evan Davis, sets out to show that many of our preconceptions are based on a mistaken belief.

Economic historian Paul Johnson, of the London School of Economics, states: 'Most people in the past, just as today, worked in different employments for different employers, often doing different tasks across their working lives. The idea of stable jobs and lifetime employment is perhaps most true of the period from the end of the Second World War through to the mid 1960s.'

Through archive sources and personal memories, the programme shows how even such apparently modern notions as home working were widespread 100 years ago. 'We came across accounts of women in Birmingham making heavy chains in their front rooms,' says Michael Blastland. 'They would screen their babies from the sparks in the fireplace and make the chains, link by link, with a hammer and anvil.'

BBC History

Kidman with clichés

Charles Spencer

Nicole Kidman

by Tim Ewbank and Stafford Hildred

Headline, £17.99, 244 pp

1 TENNYSON¹⁾ MEMORABLY described a critic as a “louse in the locks of literature”. Messrs Ewbank and Hildred are a pair of lice in the expensively groomed locks of celebrity.

2 In recent years they have churned out biographies of Roy Keane, David Jason, Russell Crowe, Julie Christie, John Thaw, Rod Stewart and Joanna Lumley. Perhaps these books were full of insight, wit and fresh facts, but after reading their latest opus, on Nicole Kidman, I somehow doubt it.

3 This is a dreadful take-the-money-and-run project that spends more than 200 pages presenting rather less information than you would gain from an intelligent profile in a quality newspaper. Naively, I’d always assumed that the purpose of unauthorised biographies was to dish the dirt and the gossip. That may be an objectionable function, but at least it gives the reader some bang for their bucks. Ewbank and Hildred, however, have contented themselves with stuffing their book with clichés about the Australian actress, formerly Mrs Tom Cruise.

4 Her film career has taken off spectacularly with two terrific performances in major movies – as the troubled mother in Alejandro Amenabar’s brilliant ghost story, *The Others*, and as Satine, the courtesan and star, in Baz Luhrmann’s exuberant musical *Moulin Rouge*. They are both fine achievements, but to describe Kidman as “arguably the most famous actress in the world” strikes me as absurd. More famous than Liz Taylor? More famous than Judi Dench? Surely not.

5 The reason why most people will buy this book is to find out what really went wrong in her marriage to Cruise, but here Ewbank and Hildred draw a notable blank, delivering no juicy morsels at all. One moment the couple are



blissfully happy, the next they are issuing a statement announcing their separation. Did it have anything to do with Cruise’s adherence to Scientology? Or did the many months they spent filming Stanley Kubrick’s notably steamy *Eyes Wide Shut* together reveal faultlines in their marriage? Ewbank and Hildred don’t appear to have a clue.

They don’t even raise the questions.

6 What you get is a detailed trudge through every movie Kidman has ever made, which recounts the plots in dreary detail without giving you much insight into Kidman’s performances, together with frequent assertions of what a thoroughly nice woman Kidman is, and what a smashing, loving, liberal family she comes from.

7 We are left with judgments that sound like headmasterly school reports, which is odd when you consider that the authors are a pair of tabloid newshounds who can’t spot a cliché without rushing to embrace it like a long-lost friend.

8 What makes Kidman interesting is a screen and a stage presence that simultaneously suggests the innocent and the sensual, as a critic from New York’s *Village Voice* perceptively noted. It’s a highly provocative combination but this colourless and pointless book makes her seem marginally less interesting than a dull, dutifully conscientious Girl Guide.

The Sunday Telegraph

noot 1

Tennyson: English poet (1809-1892)

Splitting ear drums

Needed: new standards on noise

Tinnitus – the buzzing in the head which doctors thought would dwindle with the decline of heavy industry – is on the increase. No one should 12. Personal stereos, new sound systems in clubs and new stereo systems in cinemas have replaced the threat to hearing which steamhammers and clanking industrial machines posed in the past. Factories where the noise level exceeds 85 decibels are now required to provide their workers with ear plugs. However, club owners who allow their DJs to far exceed this level are under 13. Yet any noise above 85 decibels can threaten serious hearing loss.

Cinemas often breach the recommended noise level of 82 decibels for feature films. The British Standards Institution has proposed a new draft standard to control and limit cinema sound levels. To its credit the Cinema Advertisers’

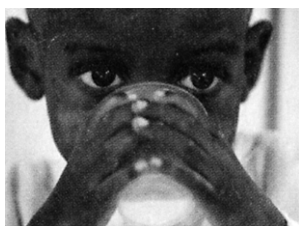
Association has welcomed the move. Certainly the young may be more ready to accept a noisy environment than older generations, but people from all age groups have been complaining against excessive noise in cinema trailers. Consequently, even film advertisers have now 14 their obligation to pay more attention to safe noise levels.

Will public health ministers follow suit? The Royal National Institute for the Deaf has been pointing to the danger of noise for years. It believes millions of people are destroying irreplaceable hair cells in their inner ears but will not recognise the damage until it is too late. The World Health Organisation has declared noise to be a significant threat to health. But unlike America, the UK does not recognise International Noise Awareness Day. Time to wake up, 15.

The Guardian

Healing the world

1 TERRORISM is like
 a hideous disease,
 and sensible
 countries seek to
 5 eradicate it. But it
 should not be
 forgotten that
 hideous diseases, in the literal sense of the
 word, kill and cripple far more people,
 10 especially in poor countries. Encouragingly,
 recent decades have seen huge progress in
 the struggle against sickness. Between 1960
 and 1995, life expectancy in poor countries
 rose by 22 years, largely because modern
 15 medicine prevented millions of premature
 deaths. In the 1950s, 15% of children died
 before their fifth birthday; now only 4% do.



2 But the bad news is that not everyone
 has benefited. In many African countries, as
 20 AIDS sweeps through the population,
 people are dying younger than they did a
 decade ago. And in the world as a whole,
 16m people still die each year from easily
 preventable diseases. Rich countries could
 25 greatly reduce this toll by giving more
 towards improvements in health care in
 poor countries. A new report estimates that
 an extra \$27 billion would save 8m lives a
 year.

3 30 Healing the afflicted is not merely a
 matter of compassion. Poor countries are
 sick because they are poor, but they are also
 poor because they are sick. Sickness reduces
 productivity, as anyone who has ever tried
 35 to work while shaking with fever knows.
 When a virus strikes, families often sell
 productive assets, such as cows or hoes, to
 pay for medicine. When parents do not
 expect all their children to survive, they
 40 have more, and so cannot invest as much to
 educate each child. Tropical diseases scare
 off tourists, and investors too, who prefer
 their workers healthy. By one estimate,
 malarial countries would be twice as
 45 prosperous today if the disease had never
 existed.

4 The chief responsibility for fighting
 disease in poor countries lies with the poor
 countries themselves. Several cheap and
 50 powerful treatments exist for common
 diseases, and could be applied more
 systematically. Examples include
 vaccination, DOTS treatment for
 tuberculosis and oral-rehydration therapy
 55 for diarrhoea. A few health-promoting
 measures, such as tobacco taxes, place no
 burden on national budgets. Governments
 of developing countries could find out,
 through surveys, which diseases inflict the
 60 greatest burden on their people, and how
 health budgets could provide the greatest
 benefit at the least cost. And some
 governments, notably South Africa's, could
 do far more to prevent and treat one terrible
 65 killer, AIDS, if they faced up to the reality
 of its cause.

5 But even if all third-world health
 ministers spent their budgets wisely and
 rationally – as few at present do – many
 70 children would still die for want of pills
 that cost only a few cents. For the poorest
 countries simply do not have the cash to
 provide even basic medicines. This is where
 sponsor countries come in. If they gave
 75 more money and poor countries chipped in
 and reformed their health-care systems, the
 report's authors calculate that the cheapest,
 tried-and-tested treatments could be made
 widely available. Surprisingly, this would
 80 include even some drugs for AIDS, which
 are usually assumed to be too expensive for
 the worst-afflicted countries.

6 It is a lot of money, but it could be
 found. A colossal number of lives could be
 85 saved, and immeasurable suffering relieved,
 for about \$25 per rich-country citizen each
 year. That is less than many parents in rich
 countries will be spending on a Harry
 Potter video game for their children this
 90 Christmas.

The Economist

An attack of sanity

Tackling the causes of crime obsesses the government but it doesn't work. Catching and imprisoning the criminals does, writes **Robin Harris**

1 Last week's figures for recorded crime and the latest British Crime Survey (BCS) had a predictable impact. The Home Office said they showed crime continuing to fall. The
5 tabloids and the Tories pointed to an apparent rise in violent crime and complained of displacement of crime from cities to underpoliced rural districts. The truth is at once more complex and more simple.

2 10 We do not know much about what crime is doing from year to year. But we do know about the level and the broad trends. Both the police figures and the BCS suggest a fall in crime since the early 1990s. This is probably
15 correct. But more importantly crime is still historically high. There has been a huge increase since the 1960s and this has not been reversed. Crime is also high by international standards. A recent survey of 17 countries
20 placed England and Wales at the top of the list of crime-ridden nations.

3 The debate should really start there. Are we prepared to carry on with existing policies? Or are we prepared to change
25 direction by embracing an alternative penal philosophy and, as taxpayers and citizens, pay the price for it?

4 Rather than pursue an approach that brings the full weight of the law and the resources of
30 the state to bear on crime, the authorities in Britain have continued to try to understand and remove its causes. It is assumed that criminals are propelled into criminality by their circumstances, and that these
35 circumstances can be changed by government. This is over-optimistic.

5 Despite all the research we still do not know much about the underlying causes of crime. More importantly, most of what we do
40 know does not help to stop it. A sensible strategy would be to stick to being "tough on crime", not on its "causes". We do actually know what works. Forceful, locally based, well-funded policing works. And prison
45 works.

6 Unfortunately, policing in Britain today does not work well at all. We have, despite the occasional scandal, an honest police force. But it is incompetent in the one respect that
50 matters more than everything else: tackling crime.

7 The collapse of British policing began when the huge growth of crime from the 1960s was not met with proportionate growth
55 in police numbers. This in turn encouraged a retreat from the streets to panda cars and offices. Timidity in dealing with crime hotspots and with those who were obvious suspects grew.

8 60 It isn't inevitable. The example of the New York police department shows that. In the 1990s the NYPD was transformed into a proactive, assertive, well-led, well-resourced and accountable force. The London
65 Metropolitan police wasn't and isn't. The leadership and mentality of the British police will have to undergo a revolution. And there will need to be many more police officers.

9 We also know that prison works because it
70 deters and incapacitates. Evidence from America suggests criminals have a good understanding of the sentences they are likely to receive if caught and that they adjust their behaviour accordingly. There seems no reason
75 to suggest that homegrown British villains are any less smart.

10 The effects of incapacitation are even clearer. The average criminal probably commits about 10 crimes a year when free to
80 do so. Locking him up for a good while for one offence, even perhaps one that is not in itself very serious, will afford a lot of protection to the public.

11 Prison is, of course, expensive. Indeed, if
85 we want much less crime, spending on criminal justice clearly has to rise as a necessary, though not of course sufficient, condition for the right policies. The sums involved are large. A doubling of the number
90 of police officers and a trebling of the number of prison places might together nearly double the current criminal justice budget of £16 billion. But it would still leave what we devote to our security as citizens as a mere
95 fraction of what we devote to the National Health Service and social security.

The Sunday Times

Animal rights activists take on India's leather industry

The country that worships cows is accused of disregard for their welfare. **Angus Donald** reports

In the southern Indian state of Kerala, in 1998, an elephant was summoned to court to provide evidence for allegations of mistreatment by its owner. The case was a rare one – not just because of the unusual spectacle of a huge beast appearing in a court of law, but because mistreatment of animals is 28 in India.

Animals occupy a peculiar position in Indian society. While many animals, most notably cows, are considered sacred and their lives are protected by law, their suffering before death seems to be of little account.

29, a campaign by People for the Ethical

Treatment of Animals (Peta), a US-based animal rights organisation, aims to change that by taking on the huge Indian leather export industry, worth just under \$2bn annually.

This week, Peta persuaded Marks and Spencer, the UK retail chain, to stop importing Indian leather. "Marks and Spencer has confirmed it will not purchase Indian skins again until promised improvements in 30 are met," says Peta. M&S thus joins several other British and American retailers which are boycotting Indian leather.

"We disagree with Peta that our treatment of animals is unethical," says Anand Set, an official at the Federation of Indian Export Organisations. "We worship cows in India, we don't mistreat them. I think all the fuss has been started by our competitors in Africa and south Asia who are trying

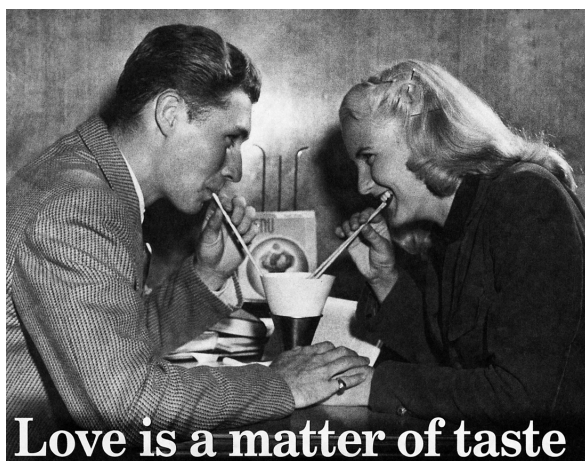
to spoil our markets."

"The ground reality is very different from the way 31 represents it," says R.K. Pandey, an officer at the Council for Leather Exports. "There may have been some slackness in the procedures but there are laws that have been in place to protect animals since 1951 and they are enforced."

Part of the problem is that India has 32,000 illegal slaughterhouses. Another part is cultural. In a country where 300m people live on less than \$1 a day, concern about the suffering of animals is at best 32 and, to some, faintly ludicrous.

"India can't even guarantee basic human rights, for example the right not to starve to death," said one social scientist. "It will be a long time before luxuries such as animal rights are even considered."

The Financial Times



Roger Dobson and John Elliott

- 1 LOVERS may soon find themselves carrying calculators while restaurants will be booming if a new do-it-yourself "compatibility indicator" devised at the Institute of Psychiatry works as well as its inventors claim. The questionnaire, which can be completed by prospective lovers in less than 10 minutes, is said to predict accurately their chances of finding lasting romance.
- 2 Glenn Wilson, a reader in personality at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College, London, led the team that devised the test and believes it will be widely used to predict the suitability of potential partnerships. "We hope it will be useful to marriage counsellors, relationship therapists and others, like the clergy, who run premarital support courses," said Wilson. "Being a relatively rational measure of long-term prospects, it might also be used to sound a note of caution to courting couples gripped by rosy-spectacled adoration, highlighting domains where conflict is likely to arise after early passion has cooled," his report adds.
- 3 The researchers sought to develop a questionnaire for determining compatibility among two or more respondents by assessing

overall similarity across certain key traits and attitudes, according to a report of the research in the journal *Sexual and Relationship Therapy*, published this week. They focused on 25 key factors including looks, intelligence and sociability that previous studies have shown are likely to give rise to conflict in relationships. A questionnaire was then drawn up and a scoring system calibrated through tests on a random sample of 2,159 adults.

- 4 The resulting Compatibility Indicator consists of 25 questions, each with five multiple-choice answers ranging from one extreme to another. Prospective couples fill out the same questionnaire separately. They then compare their answers – with each point of difference adding to their score. For example, if both parties respond to the question "What sort of sex drive do you have?" with the answer "about average", they score nothing. However, if one responds "to be honest I'm absolutely insatiable" (choice 5) and the other ticks the box marked "my sex drive is pretty nonexistent" (choice 1), four points are scored.
- 5 The maximum possible score for all 25 questions is 100. Scores below 23 – the average for couples who have lived happily together – indicate strong compatibility, while scores above 23 suggest you may be heading for the rocks.
- 6 The background research for the questionnaire shines new light on the things that drive successful relationships. Men and women regard shared attitudes to sexual fidelity as paramount, but when it came down to it, men were found to regard a shared taste in foreign foods as more important than libido and previous sexual experience. "We found that the tests could predict those that were happy and those that were less happy. It puts paid to the myth that opposites attract. When it comes to the key things, it is very much better being the same."

The Sunday Times

Giga-what? Barbie Gets Her Own Computer

by Ophira Edut

1 IN FALL 1999, Mattel began marketing two different versions of a home computer. For fellas, a Hot Wheels system, decorated in you-bet-I'm-a-straight-boy blue, and covered with flames. For girls, there's a Barbie



version, which is silver and covered in pink and purple flowers. Then there's software that comes bundled with the package. Boys get adventure games like Oregon Trail, while girls get creative writing software and – yes – a program called "Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing."

2 Apparently, *someone* thinks the daughters of the Information Revolution need to learn a special lesson about the "proper" place for girls. Who cares if a 6-year-old girl can boot up a hard drive, design her own web page, and would rather play adrenaline-pumping action games? Mattel wants her slaving and sweating, improving her words-per-minute rate, and solidifying her chances to land a modest secretarial position when she grows up.

3 Complicating matters is the PC's extremely low price tag – \$599 – for a monitor, speakers, hard drive, and software. At such an affordable sticker price, Mattel could bring computers en masse into the homes of girls. This would be great, if the company wasn't also bringing along its own social programming – meant to pin girls firmly down in their place when they're most impressionable.

4 Do we try out the wares or eject the data? Barbie's creators present us with a difficult choice. I, for one, want to see girls become fluent in the complex language of the Computer Age. Too bad Mattel still programs in Basic.

www.adiosbarbie.com

Tekst 10

Parents are unaware of Ecstasy risk

By Svetlana Kolchik
USA TODAY

1 More American teenagers are using Ecstasy, but parents remain clueless about the drug's deadly risks and accessibility, a new report says.

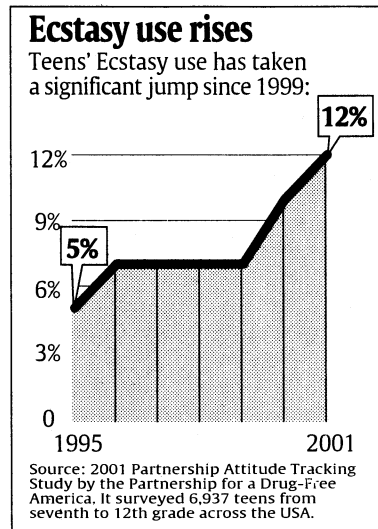
2 Developed in the early 1990s as a possible diet pill, Ecstasy burst onto the nightclub scene in the mid-1980s and quickly became "the rave generation's cocaine." Raves are all-night dance parties.

3 Nearly 12% of seventh- through 12th-graders report that they have used Ecstasy at least once, up 5 percentage points since 1999. But even though 92% of adults know that the drug exists, only 1% of them believe their child is among the 2.9 million teens who have tried it, according to the national survey.

4 The gap between the facts and perception has never been so obvious, says Steve Pasierb, president and CEO of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America. The New York-based non-profit tracks teens' and parents' attitudes about drugs and produces anti-drug ads.

5 For the Ecstasy survey, the group randomly polled 1,219 parents across the country in December and January.

6 "The level of denial is pretty drastic here," Pasierb says. According to researchers, this is due to Ecstasy's relative newness to the public, parents' reluctance to participate in their children's lives and the drug's false reputation as a low-risk and cheap and pleasurable high.



7 Also known as the hug drug, love drug, X, E, XTC, Roll, Adam and Bean, this synthetic psychoactive stimulant boosts energy and self-confidence. It brings feelings of euphoric empathy and intimacy. Ecstasy helps young people dance all night, but doctors say the drug also can dramatically increase body temperature and blood pressure and cause muscle breakdown. It also can cause heart and kidney failure. Laboratory studies have shown that Ecstasy can damage the brain and make even a one-night user prone to Parkinson's and depression.

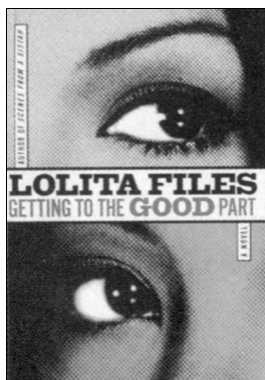
8 Even so, the survey found that 60% of parents still aren't aware of Ecstasy's nature, 49% don't know of its effects and 41% doubt their son or daughter can easily obtain it.

9 But they are wrong, experts say. "It's as available at house and neighborhood parties as in raves," Pasierb says. "It's now in the drug pipeline."

10 Go to drugfree.org or call 866-982-3228 for more information.

USA TODAY

the African-American connection



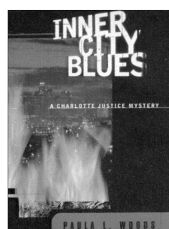
GETTING TO THE GOOD PART

Lolita Files

The two best friends from *Scenes from a Sista* are back and things are going well. Misty's work life is thriving and she's apparently found Mr. Right. Rees's dance career has taken off, and she thinks she may have found a man herself. That is, until her self-destructive tendencies surface and it's up to true love and true friendship to save the day. (Fiction)

Warner

ISBN: 0-446-52420-4 **\$24.00**



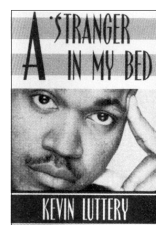
INNER CITY BLUES

Paula L. Woods

During the Los Angeles riots, LAPD detective Charlotte Justice saves a black doctor from a beating by white police officers. Then she discovers the body of a one-time radical who murdered her husband and child. Was his death random, or did the doctor kill him? As Charlotte seeks the truth, she must deal with everything from the police hierarchy to a former flame in this debut novel in a great new series. (Mystery)

W.W. Norton & Co.

ISBN: 0-393-04680-X **\$23.95**



A STRANGER IN MY BED

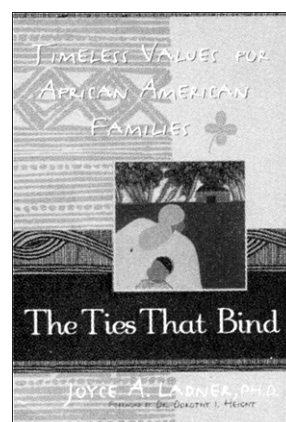
Kevin Luttery

After detaching himself from an interracial relationship, the author was forced to examine the social and psychological elements that had influenced his path. This careful self-analysis reveals why Luttery and so many men like him come to feel that there is a stranger in his own bed.

(Nonfiction)

Bryant & Dillon Publishers, Inc.

ISBN: 1-889408-4 **\$23.95**



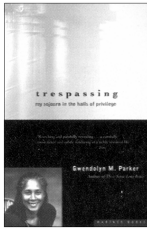
THE TIES THAT BIND

Joyce A. Ladner, Ph.D.

Assure that your children will grow up with strong values and a positive sense of purpose and identity. Drawing on her own tradition-rich Mississippi upbringing, a leading sociologist passes on the timeless treasures of African-American values and shapes them for our time. (Parenting)

John Wiley & Sons

ISBN: 0-471-19953-2 **\$22.95**



TRESPASSING

My Sojourn in the Halls of Privilege

Gwendolyn M. Parker

From a nurturing childhood in a middle-class black community, the author rose in the ranks on Wall Street only to discover that racism and sexism still prevail at the top. Full of outrage and regret, she tells her tale frankly and unflinchingly, yet with humor and compassion. This compelling memoir offers a view of corporate America through the eyes of a black woman 'intruder.' "Searching and painfully revealing, depicting each moment with searing clarity ... Parker shows what it means to be invisible and erased." – *Time* (Memoir)

Houghton Mifflin

ISBN: 0-395-92620-3 **\$12.00 paper**

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