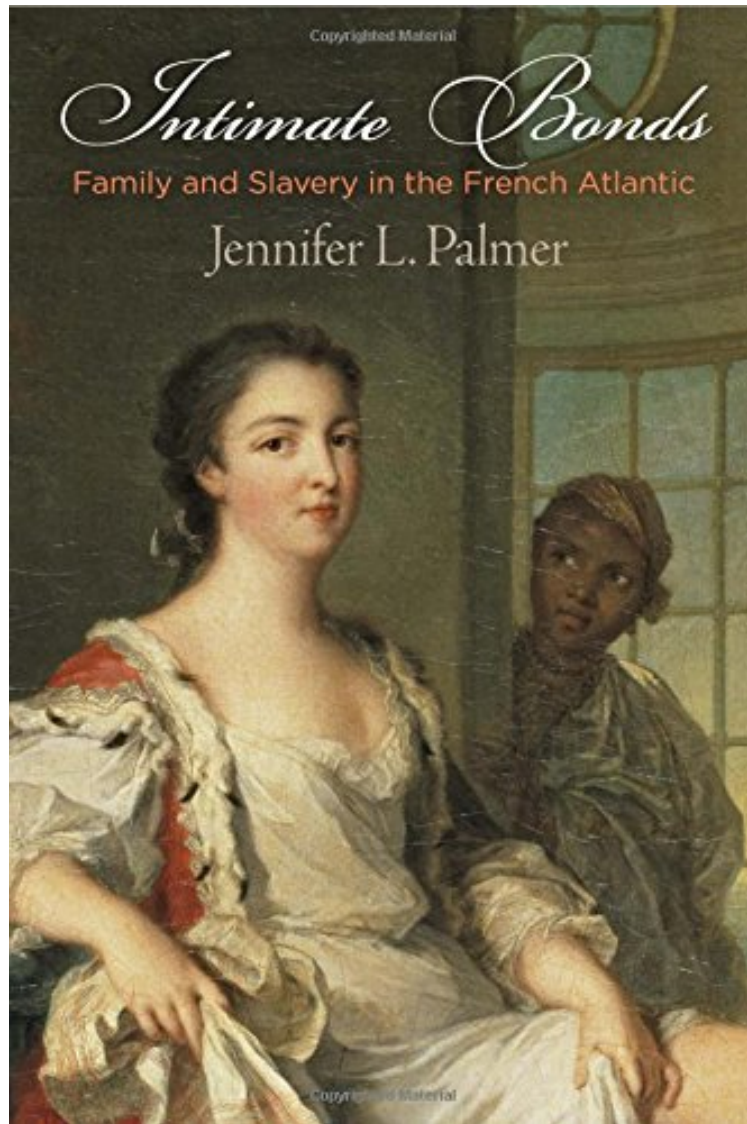


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Intimate Bonds: Family and Slavery in the French Atlantic (The Early Modern Americas)

Jennifer L. Palmer

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Jennifer L. Palmer : Intimate Bonds: Family and Slavery in the French Atlantic (The Early Modern Americas) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Intimate Bonds: Family and Slavery in the French Atlantic (The Early Modern Americas):

Following the stories of families who built their lives and fortunes across the Atlantic Ocean, *Intimate Bonds* explores how households anchored the French empire and shaped the meanings of race, slavery, and gender in the early modern period. As race-based slavery became entrenched in French laws, all household members in the French Atlantic world regardless of their status, gender, or race negotiated increasingly stratified legal understandings of race and gender. Through her focus on household relationships, Jennifer L. Palmer reveals how intimacy not only led to the seemingly immutable hierarchies of the plantation system but also caused these hierarchies to collapse even before the age of Atlantic revolutions. Placing families at the center of the French Atlantic world, Palmer uses the concept of intimacy to illustrate how race, gender, and the law intersected to form a new worldview. Through analysis of personal, mercantile, and legal relationships, *Intimate Bonds* demonstrates that even in an era of intensifying racial stratification, slave owners and slaves, whites and people of color, men and women all adapted creatively to growing barriers, thus challenging the emerging paradigm of the nuclear family. This engagingly written history reveals that personal choices and family strategies shaped larger cultural and legal shifts in the meanings of race, slavery, family, patriarchy, and colonialism itself.

"A striking and original study that will engage both scholars and students in its vivid exploration of families and people in eighteenth-century Atlantic France. Extensive and detailed archival research undergirds each narrative gem. The prose is simple and lively, hiding the author's hard work of empirically verifying familial and historical connections." Sue Peabody, Washington State University

"*Intimate Bonds* is a deeply-researched book that offers an important intervention in the fields of early modern French and French Atlantic history. Analyzing a broader range of actors than previous historians, Jennifer L. Palmer sheds important new light on the contested, constructed, and shifting meanings of 'race' in the French Atlantic world." Brett Rushforth, University of Oregon

About the Author Jennifer L. Palmer teaches history at the University of Georgia.