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Caribbean Mothers: Identity and Experience in the U.K.

By Tracey Reynolds
2005. London: Tufnell Press, 204pp

Book review:
Adele Jones

To write that black mothers in general, and Caribbean mothers in particular, have long been denied a history of their own making may seem an obvious introduction to the audience for whom this book seems intended. In fact, it is within this context that many feminist writers follow a well-used pattern of argument: they highlight the dearth of literature on the topic, they acknowledge and celebrate prior work and usually they emphasize the limitations of their own work, thereby pointing out further gaps. The recognition that feminists do not write only for one another, that black women do not only write for audiences that are black and female is the point Tracey Reynolds is making. Whether there is growing interest (or not) in writings about and by the black women of Britain, the fact that black mothers in the United Kingdom (UK) both shape and are shaped by constructions of mothering that emerge out of the societies in which they live and that their presence is not invisible is a point worth stressing. Indeed the acknowledgement of this may help to expand the book's audience.