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Whistlin and Crowin Women of Appalachia: Literacy Practices Since College (Paperback)

By Katherine Kelleher Sohn

Southern Illinois University Press, United States, 2006. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Even some enlightened academicians automatically - and incorrectly - connect illiteracy to Appalachia, contends Katherine Kelleher Sohn. After overhearing two education professionals refer to the southern accent of a waiter and then launch into a few redneck jokes, Sohn wondered why rural, working-class white people are not considered part of the multicultural community. Whistlin and Crowin Women of Appalachia: Literacy Practices since College examines the power of women to rise above cultural constraints, complete their college degrees, assume positions of responsibility, and ultimately come to voice. Sohn, a born southerner and assimilated Appalachian who moved from the city more than thirty years ago, argues that an underclass of rural whites is being left out of multicultural conversations. She shares how her own search for identity in the academic world (after enrolling in a doctoral program at age fifty) parallels the journeys of eight nontraditional, working-class women. Through interviews and case studies, Sohn illustrates how academic literacy empowers women in their homes, jobs, and communities, effectively disproving the Appalachian adage: Whistlin women and crowin hens, always come to no good ends. Sohn situates the women...



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