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The Horrible Gift of Freedom: Atlantic Slavery and the Representation of Emancipation (Paperback)

By Professor of English Marcus Wood

University of Georgia Press, United States, 2010. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Meditations on the paradoxes generated around the ending of western slavery. In his tour-de-force *Blind Memory*, Marcus Wood read the visual archive of slavery in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century America and Britain with a closeness and rigor that until then had been applied only to the written texts of that epoch. *Blind Memory* changed the way we look at everything from a Turner seascape to a crude woodcut in a runaway slave advertisement. *The Horrible Gift of Freedom* brings the same degree of rigor to an analysis of the visual culture of Atlantic emancipation. Wood takes a troubled and troubling look at the iconography inspired by the abolition of slavery across the Atlantic diaspora. Why, he asks, did imagery showing the very instant of the birth of black slave freedom invariably personify Liberty as a white woman? Where did the image of the enchained kneeling slave, ubiquitous in abolitionist visual culture on both sides of the Atlantic, come from? And, most important, why was freedom invariably depicted as a gift from white people to black people? In order to assess what the inheritance of...



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