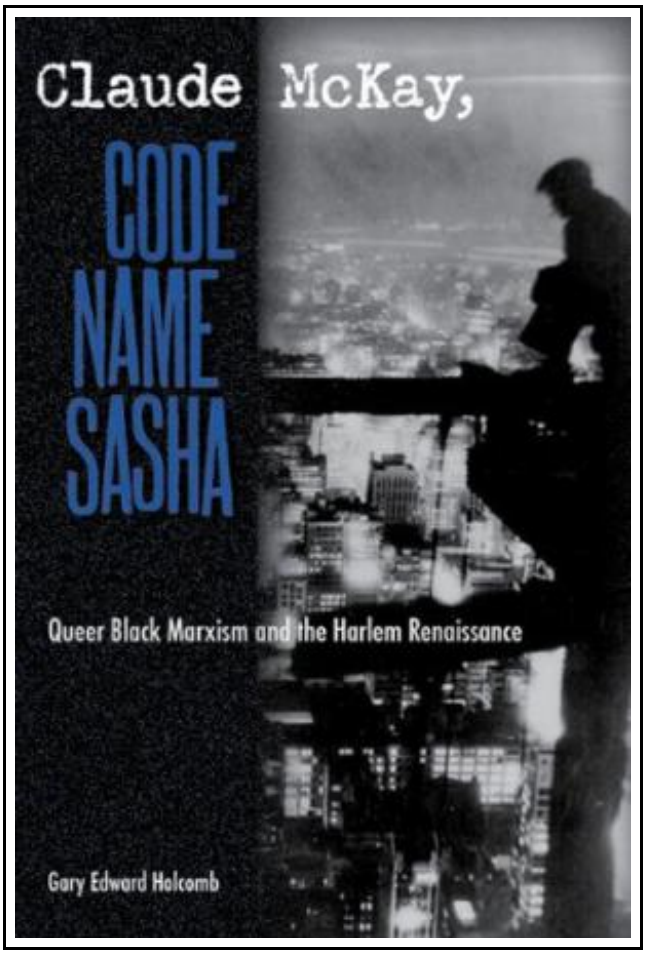
Claude McKay, Code Name Sasha: Queer Black Marxism and the Harlem Renaissance



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CLAUDE MCKAY, CODE NAME SASHA: QUEER BLACK MARXISM AND THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

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University Press of Florida. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 288 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 6.0in. x 0.9in.Sasha was the code name adopted by Harlem Renaissance writer Claude McKay (1889-1948) to foil investigations of his life and work. Over a period of two decades, the FBI, U. S. State Department, British police and intelligence, and French law enforcement and colonial authorities took turns harassing McKay, an openly gay, Marxist, Jamaican expatriate who had left the United States and was living in Europe. In this study of four of McKays texts--the first literary, cultural, and historical analysis to address the multilayered queer black anarchism in McKays writings--Holcomb argues that McKays fringe perspective not only targeted him for investigation but also contributed to a declining literary reputation. Perceived as mystifying and unacceptable because of his dedication to communism, McKay is perplexing and difficult to classify within the traditional constructs of the Harlem Renaissance. The problem that McKays transnational, aesthetically itinerant writing inevitably has posed is where to locate him. In recent years, access into McKays work has been transformed by new methods of interpreting the politics of literary texts, the growing significance of transnationality in literary and cultural analysis, and the impact of queer theory. Holcomb analyzes three of the most important works in McKays career--the Jazz Age bestseller Home to Harlem, the ngritude manifesto Banjo, and the unpublished Romance in Marseille. Holcomb uncovers ways in which Home to Harlem assembles a homefront queer black anarchism, and treats Banjo as a novel that portrays Marxist internationalist sexual dissidence. Among the most notable contributions to black modernist study, Holcombs scholarship is the first to assess the consequence of McKays landmark Romance in Marseille, a text that is, despite its absence from broad public access for nearly 80 years, conceivably the most significant early black...

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