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Titolo	A mess of greens : Southern gender and Southern food / / Elizabeth S. D. Engelhardt
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Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xi, 265 pages) : illustrations
Disciplina	394.1/20975
Soggetti	Food habits - Southern States - History Food - Social aspects - Southern States - History Cooking, American - Southern style - History Women - Southern States - Social life and customs Southern States Social life and customs Southern States Social conditions
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Whose food, when, and why?: longing for corn and beans -- Moonshine: drawing a bead on Southern food and gender -- Biscuits and cornbread: race, class, and gender politics of women baking bread -- Canning tomatoes: growing "better and more perfect women" -- Will work for food: mill work, pellagra, and gendered consumption -- Cookbooks and curb markets: wild messes of Southern food and gender -- Market bulletins: writing the mess of greens together.
Sommario/riassunto	Combining the study of food culture with gender studies and using perspectives from historical, literary, environmental, and American studies, Elizabeth S.D. Engelhardt examines what southern women's choices about food tell us about race, class, gender, and social power. Shaken by the legacies of Reconstruction and the turmoil of the Jim Crow era, different races and classes came together in the kitchen, often as servants and mistresses but also as people with shared tastes

and traditions. Generally focused on elite whites or poor blacks, southern foodways are often portrayed as stable and unchanging-even as an untroubled source of nostalgia. *A Mess of Greens* offers a different perspective, taking into account industrialization, environmental degradation, and women's increased role in the work force, all of which caused massive economic and social changes. Engelhardt reveals a broad middle of southerners that included poor whites, farm families, and middle- and working-class African Americans, for whom the stakes of what counted as southern food were very high. Five "moments" in the story of southern food-moonshine, biscuits versus cornbread, girls' tomato clubs, pellagra as depicted in mill literature, and cookbooks as means of communication-have been chosen to illuminate the connectedness of food, gender, and place. Incorporating community cookbooks, letters, diaries, and other archival materials, *A Mess of Greens* shows that choosing to serve cold biscuits instead of hot cornbread could affect a family's reputation for being hygienic, moral, educated, and even godly

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