



Notable Black American Women: Book I (Bk. 1)

By Shirelle Phelps



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Narrative biographical essays, edited by noted scholar Jessie Carney Smith, discuss each woman's significant achievements and the public response to those achievements. Many entries contain personal statements from the subjects provided exclusively for this book, and all provide biographical data and a list of sources for additional study.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

YA-- A valuable resource that chronicles the accomplishments of 500 African-American women who achieved success in spite of racial and gender discrimination. Smith includes activists, educators, writers, religious leaders, community leaders, doctors, dancers, government officials, and musicians. The detailed index and the introductory list by profession provide additional options for research.

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From Library Journal

A representative rather than a comprehensive work, this biographical encyclopedia includes essays on 500 African American women born between 1730 and 1958. Selections illustrate diverse arenas of achievement for black American women: business, civil rights, the arts, education, scholarship, and government. Stories of the most famous African American women--Harriet Tubman, Mary McLeod Bethune--appear alongside those of modern black women in their prime: historian Nell Painter, writer Alice Walker. Entries vary widely in both length and style. About a third include photographs and virtually all include references; many note collections of manuscripts. Although this volume would have benefited from more rigorous editing, many of the essays are beautifully written. Reference librarians will welcome this highly accessible tool, an essential addition to every reference collection. This would also be a nice addition to YA collections; it's perfect for high school students who need a place to start for writing term papers.

- *Cynthia Harrison, Federal Judicial Ctr., Washington, D.C.*

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