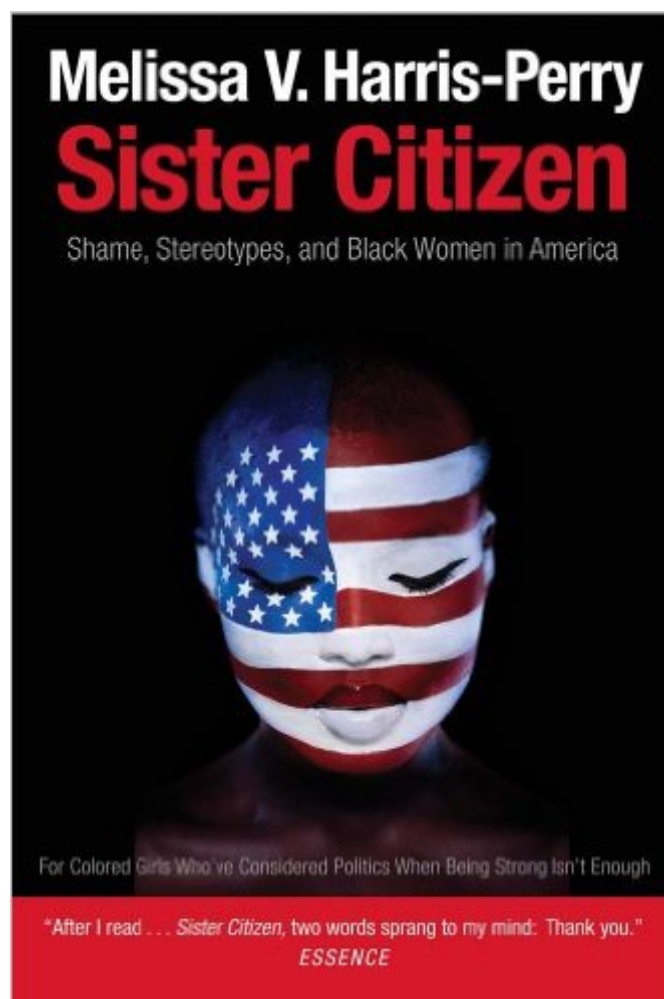


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Sister Citizen: Shame, Stereotypes, And Black Women In America



Synopsis

From a highly respected thinker on race, gender, and American politics, a new consideration of black women and how distorted stereotypes affect their political beliefs

Book Information

Paperback: 400 pages

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Customer Reviews

Melissa Harris-Perry pulls no punches with her insightful and scathing indictment of the institutions and the damaging myths about black womanhood that keep them from fully realizing their citizenship and their identity. She explores the genesis of such stereotypes as the promiscuous Jezebel, the self-sacrificing Mammy (once again made popular with the inexplicable success of *The Help*) and the emasculating Sapphire. The book is filled with anecdotes, but it's also backed with meticulous research and she also uses powerful novels like 'The Color Purple', 'The Bluest Eye', 'Their Eyes Were Watching God' and 'for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf' to link black women's varied experiences to the struggle for recognition and personhood. She uses the metaphor of the "crooked room" to describe how black women do their best to live within the perimeters of a world that often defines them through the lens of hatred and fear. Parts of this book were hard for me to read because many of her observations are true in my own life and while I identify myself as a feminist, I find the movement's lack of diverse voices and understanding of the dual burdens of race and gender (and in many cases sexual orientation) that black women face highly troublesome. One of the chapters I was delighted to read had to do with how black women view god, and I have the feeling a lot of black pastors are going to hear Perry's

criticism of them and she may end up shunned because she exposed a lot of truths about how the church fails to bring black women's issues and needs to the front.

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