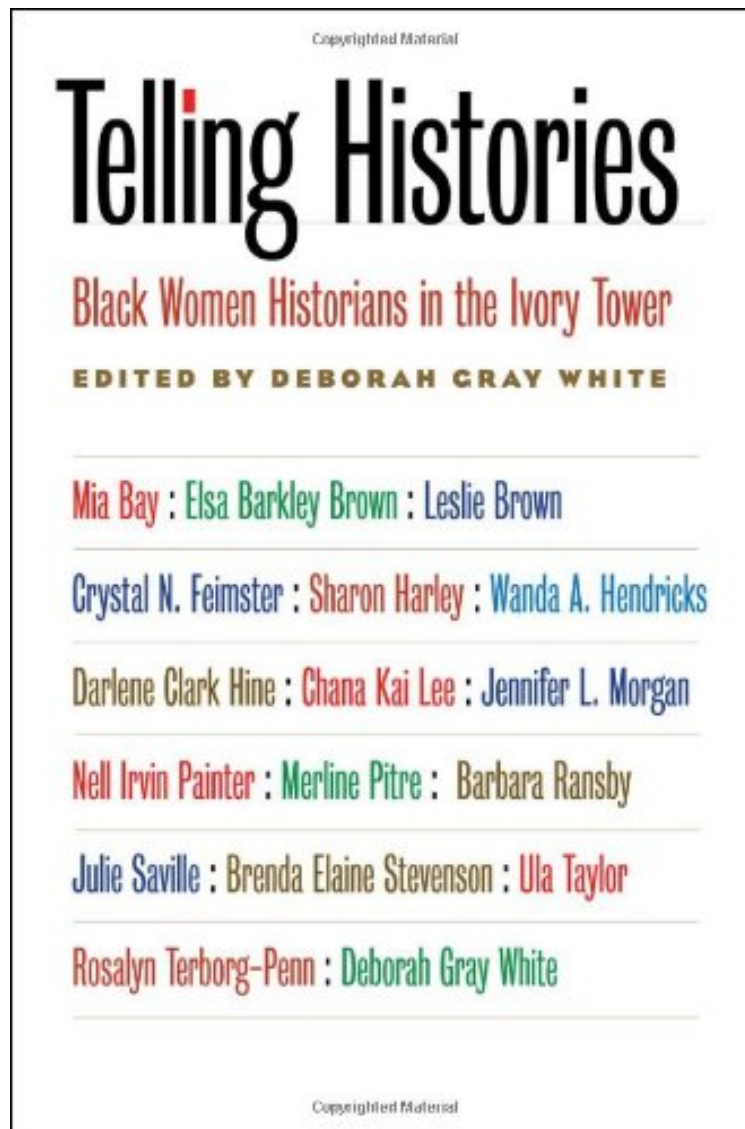


(Download pdf) Telling Histories: Black Women Historians in the Ivory Tower (Gender and American Culture)

## Telling Histories: Black Women Historians in the Ivory Tower (Gender and American Culture)

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From The University of North Carolina Press : Telling Histories: Black Women Historians in the Ivory Tower (Gender and American Culture) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Telling Histories: Black Women Historians in the Ivory Tower (Gender and American Culture):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Truly Telling Stories.By showmegradA fascinating look at the

history of the evolving state of race and gender relations within the United States. The seventeen autobiographical essays included in the volume, provide an intimate and insightful vision of our society's struggle with these complex and dividing issues, as viewed from the unique perspective of a distinguished group determined, intelligent, and articulate Black female historians. They are all well respected scholars who have made significant contributions to the historiographical record in the genre of African-American studies and more specifically within the sub-genre of African-American Women's studies. Their stories tell of the long uphill march, which all people of color in this country and Black women in particular, have had to climb in order to overcome the stigma of negative stereotypes ingrained in the societal consciousness of America. They each give the reader a strong sense of the feeling, which each of them felt so often in their lives, that they had to not only prove not only the validity of the work, but also their own personal validity as a Black woman, who refused to be held down or back by what society thought was their proper place.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read!

By CustomerEye-opening revelations of what truly happens when women of color take the helm in education and in leadership.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Deborah Clay White has collected a great selection of essays from numerous successful African American female ...

By Jake ZirkleDeborah Clay Whites *Telling Histories: Black Women Historians in the Ivory Tower* is a tremendous collection of autobiographical essays by 17 African American female historians. Board of Governors Professor of History and Women and Gender Studies at Rutgers University, Deborah Clay White has collected a great selection of essays from numerous successful African American female historians. The goal of this work is to highlight the experiences these women faced during their education and their entrance into the world of academia. Throughout this book, each woman takes the reader on a journey through their lives while highlighting the struggles they went through to achieve their current success. Each of these women has earned their Ph.D. and is now teaching at a university. This book provides insight into a struggle that most Americans have never experienced. This is important because it allows for those who have not experienced this type of discrimination and adversity to better understand the lives of those who are different than them. White has collected an invaluable selection of essays that fills a gap in African American historiography and the larger historiography of American history. This is an extremely important work because it highlights the experiences of a group of individuals who had to overcome a tremendous amount of adversity to achieve their high level of success. This unique view point is helpful to understanding African American and African American Womens history because it is a perspective that many people will not have to experience first-hand. Although some progress has been made, there are still steps that need to be taken regarding black women in the historical profession. In the words of Dr. Mia Bay; If black womens scholarship and scholarly status have progressed by leaps and bounds since my mothers college days, in recent years I have begun to wonder how far we have come and to think about how far we have to go. (Bay, 194)

The field of black women's history gained recognition as a legitimate field of study late in the twentieth century. Collecting stories that are both deeply personal and powerfully political, *Telling Histories* compiles seventeen personal narratives by leading black women historians at various stages in their careers. Their essays illuminate how--first as graduate students and then as professional historians--they entered and navigated the realm of higher education, a world concerned with and dominated by whites and men. In distinct voices and from different vantage points, the personal histories revealed here also tell the story of the struggle to establish a new scholarly field. Black women, alleged by affirmative-action supporters and opponents to be "two-fers," recount how they have confronted racism, sexism, and homophobia on college campuses. They explore how the personal and the political intersect in historical research and writing and in the academy. Organized by the years the contributors earned their Ph.D.'s, these essays follow the black women who entered the field of history during and after the civil rights and black power movements, endured the turbulent 1970s, and opened up the field of black women's history in the 1980s. By comparing the experiences of older and younger generations, this collection makes visible the benefits and drawbacks of the institutionalization of African American and African American women's history. *Telling Histories* captures the voices of these pioneers, intimately and publicly. Contributors: Mia Bay, Rutgers University Elsa Barkley Brown, University of Maryland Leslie Brown, Washington University, St. Louis Crystal N. Feimster, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Sharon Harley, University of Maryland Wanda A. Hendricks, University of South Carolina Darlene Clark Hine, Northwestern University Chana Kai Lee, University of Georgia Jennifer L. Morgan, New York University Nell Irvin Painter, Newark, New Jersey Merline Pitre, Texas Southern University Barbara Ransby, University of Illinois at Chicago Julie Saville, University of Chicago Brenda Elaine Stevenson, University of California, Los Angeles Ula Taylor, University of California, Berkeley Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, Morgan State University Deborah Gray White, Rutgers University

"These narratives offer personal perspectives on the world of black women in the ebony and ivory towers. . . . One can appreciate the honest and forthrightness of many of the narratives."-*Journal of African American History*"Engagingly written . . . should appeal to multiple audiences. . . . The book is not only valuable for graduate students but is also a significant contribution to the field and should facilitate bringing down barriers, both within and outside the academy,

that constrain the professorial ranks, stifle voices, and preclude diverse academicians and scholars from writing and teaching without restraint."-H-Net s"Many of the contributors offer very poignant and personal accounts of their struggles. . . . These essays do a masterful job of conveying the complexities of these struggles, while at the same time they offer the reader a clear view of the ways many of these women have been able to cope with these difficulties even as they continue to function as scholars and teachers. . . . A very timely book."-The Journal of Southern History"The essayists offer readers much to think about as each tells her story of becoming a historian and of survival and success in the academy. . . . Recommended."-Choice"Telling Histories details the dialectic between the obstacles [African American women] faced and their accomplishments, showing how demanding the academy has been of black women academics and how equally demanding they have been of themselves."-Women's of Books The arresting individual voices of these women blend together into a choir of unusual diversity, range, and depth. Individually and collectively, these autobiographical essays offer penetrating insight into the personal, social, and cultural worlds that have shaped black women's experiences in the historical profession. What these stories tell us about the intransigence of racism, sexism, and classism in society generally--and the academy and history departments more specifically--is both disturbing and sobering, ultimately reminding us that a concerted struggle against these inequities must be redoubled.--Waldo E. Martin Jr., University of California, BerkeleyThe silence is shattered. Telling Histories reveals the story of the birth, institutionalization, and professionalization of the field of African American women's history. In retrospect, who could have been against it? But the history told here makes clear that far too many were. African American women historians, bearing 'unpleasant and unpopular news' and doing 'unmentionable history,' found 'begudging tolerance,' 'benevolent disinterest,' and indeed, outright racism and sexism. Allowed to enter the history profession but asked to do so in silence and awe, they said no. And we are all the richer for it. Telling Histories should be required reading for all historians and administrators and for all graduate students--who will one day become chairs, deans, referees, professional organization officers, grant officers, and colleagues.--Thavolia Glymph, Duke UniversityI couldn't put Telling Histories down, although I did sometimes have to put it aside, so powerful are the emotions it evokes. Deborah Gray White has done something quite wonderful here, first by analyzing so brilliantly the forces that kept black women from practicing history for so long, then by telling her own eloquent story, and finally by creating this priceless collection of first-person testimonies. These 'telling histories' will indeed serve as valuable primary sources and teaching tools. They will also stand as a significant contribution to a most necessary project: the toppling of the barriers, both internal and external, that constrict the professoriate, silence voices, and prevent diverse scholars from writing and teaching freely and well.--Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, University of North Carolina at Chapel HillThis is a compelling collection of essays by a distinguished group of women who have made history in a double sense--through both their lives and their writings. More than merely autobiography, this volume illuminates the manifold ways that legacies of slavery and Jim Crow have shaped knowledge production as well as the producers of knowledge. Together, these essays document the emergence of black women's voices in powerful ways that inform, instruct, and inspire. This book will change lives--and even the writing of history.--Eileen Boris, University of California, Santa BarbaraAbout the AuthorDeborah Gray White is Board of Governors Professor of History at Rutgers University. Her previous books include Too Heavy a Load: Black Women in Defense of Themselves, 1894-1994 and Ar'n't I a Woman?: Female Slaves in the Plantation South.