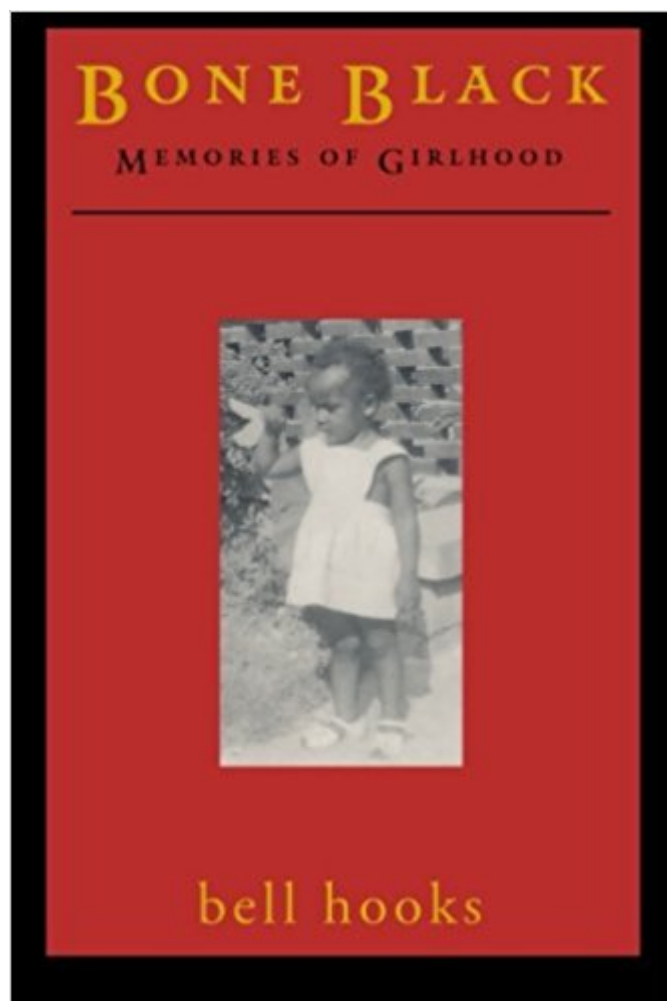


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Bone Black: Memories Of Girlhood



Synopsis

Stitching together girlhood memories with the finest threads of innocence, feminist intellectual bell hooks presents a powerfully intimate account of growing up in the South. A memoir of ideas and perceptions, *Bone Black* shows the unfolding of female creativity and one strong-spirited child's journey toward becoming a writer. She learns early on the roles women and men play in society, as well as the emotional vulnerability of children. She sheds new light on a society that beholds the joys of marriage for men and condemns anything more than silence for women. In this world, too, black is a woman's color—worn when earned—daughters and daddies are strangers under the same roof, and crying children are often given something to cry about. hooks finds good company in solitude, good company in books. She also discovers, in the motionless body of misunderstanding, that writing is her most vital breath.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

bell hooks, who teaches English at New York's City College, is well-known as an abrasive, take-no-prisoners feminist cultural critic. In this moving memoir of her childhood she explains the roots of her forceful and rigorous attitude to life and literature. She grew up in a poor Southern black family, an heir to poverty and racism, surrounded by people too wrapped up in their own struggles to offer much help to her. She writes here of her mother's suffering in an abusive marriage, of her siblings' rejection of her for being "different," of her own painful discovery of sexuality, and of how she found escape through books. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this

title.

Just as hooks, author of several books on issues of race and sex (*Killing Rage*, etc.) has idiosyncratically taken a lower-case name, her memoir, written in imagistic three-page segments, takes an unconventional approach. Aiming "to conjure a rich magical world of southern black culture," she avoids conventional signifiers like place names and dates and even shifts between a first-person and a third-person voice, referring to herself as "she." Add such techniques to simple, present-tense syntax, and the results can sound precious at times. Still, hooks is right to declare that "[n]ot enough is known about the experience of black girls in our society," so her effort deserves close reading. She struggles with a toy Barbie, preferring a brown doll. She finds sustenance in a rich black community?though one grandmother hates dark skin. She turns to religion and she loves the library. Her mother and older sister treat her menarche with more scorn than sympathy, but she discovers on her own the private pleasure of sexuality. There are scenes of the growing young woman learning about jazz, developing a crush, seeing her parents fight, finding one white teacher who seems unafraid of black kids. In the end, this book leaves us with a familiar but not unsatisfying image, that of a sensitive youth finding in books deliverance from "the wilderness of spirit I am living in." Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

bell hooks is an amazing storyteller and the telling of her own story is quite remarkable. While she's been through a lot of different experiences, both good and bad, her experiences are wrapped in the love her family always had for her.

A life story with many facets that many can identify with. And those identifying need not be black. It is encouraging to know that some blacks and some whites have some experiences in common. When this is understood healing can begin. Well written and easy to read with this engaging theme. Worth reading. That said, I would not have read it had I seen the author's bio first.

I was interested in this book because I was in one of the first class to be integrated in Illinois.

Easy read, love the story behind it and how much it ties into what we are dealing with in sociology

bell hooks is known for her many books on the politics of art and culture. This addition is more about

the processing of becoming a mature thoughtful writer. Her road was a painful one but all that she experienced fortified her work process and personality. There is some beautiful visual writing and depth in bell hooks' bone black.

What a wonderful voice... beautifully written in three page chapters...so lucky I found this gem. What honesty and depth of soul. Going to read more of her work soon!

I am in a book club and everyone thought that it was wonderful. The author's poetic language and ability to describe her setting and feelings were impactful

bell hooks is a beautifully visual writer, and I would recommend anything she's written. why is there an ___ more words required requirement?

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