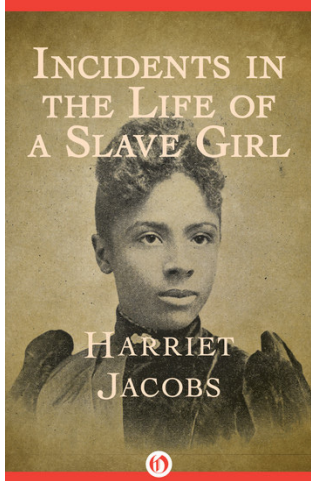


# WOMANIST READING LIST: THE ESSENTIALS



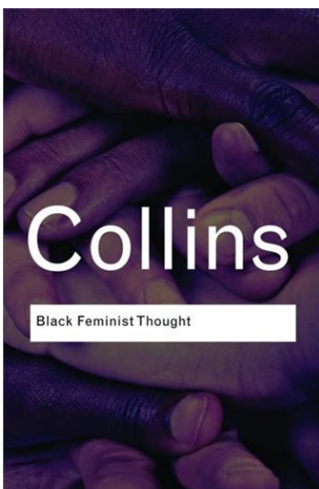
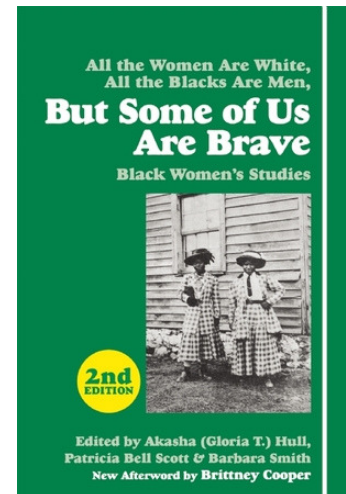
## INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF A SLAVE GIRL

Harriet Ann Jacobs

The answer to Solomon Northup's *12 Years A Slave*, Harriet Jacobs extraordinary tale details her life as life a slave, the sexual abuse faced by black women on plantations, and her subsequent escape and freedom. Jacobs' autobiography is a testament to the tenacity of the human spirit and the brutality of American slavery on Black women.

## BUT SOME OF US ARE BRAVE

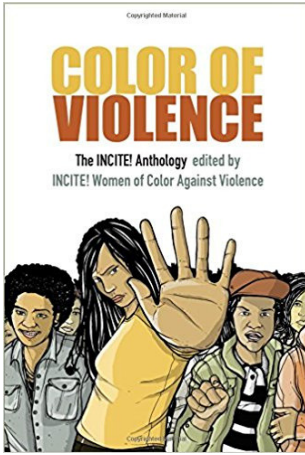
Seminal reading for anyone interested in issues of intersectionality. Originally published in 1982, *Some of Us Are Brave* is the first comprehensive collection of Black Feminist scholarship. Including writings from icons such as Michele Wallace, Alice Walker, and Patricia Bell Scott, this book looks at the culture, political, and economic complexities of Black feminism from a scholarly lens.



## BLACK FEMINIST THOUGHT

Patricia Hill Collins

Written in 1990, activist and scholar Hill Collins explores the ideas of Black feminist intellectuals and writers, both in and outside of the academy. Providing an interpretive framework for the writings of prominent Black feminist thinkers as Angela Davis, bell hooks, and Audre Lorde, Hill Collins *Black Feminist Thought* examines notions of self-definition, dominance, and intellectual rigor as a form of defiance in her most iconic work.



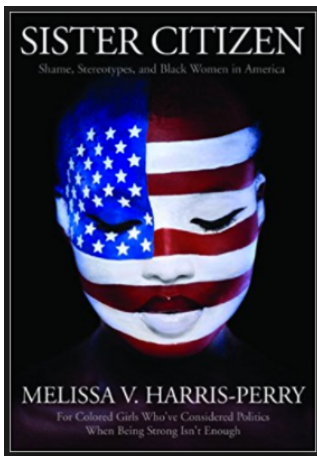
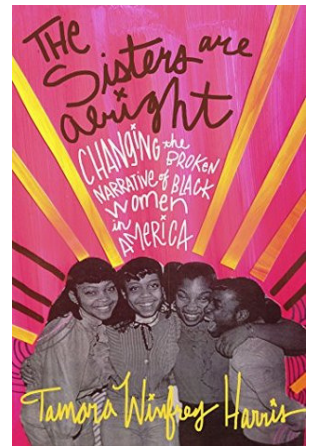
## COLOR OF VIOLENCE: THE INCITE! ANTHOLOGY

In a turn from some of the other books on this list, *Color of Violence* goes beyond violence and looks at tangible and innovative solutions to addressing these issues. Comprised of thirty separate works, this anthology links together separate narratives and case studies that address gender oppression in all of its forms and details how we can help from those on-the-ground.

## THE SISTERS ARE ALRIGHT

Tamara Winfrey Harris

A contemporary nod to the importance of popular culture in our society, *The Sisters Are Alright* is a fun and thoughtful look at the pervasive pop culture narratives that have followed Black women through the 20th century to today. From Mammy to Carmen Jones, from Beyonce to Michelle Obama, Harris takes a provocative look at stereotypes of the past and present and what they mean for Black women today.



## SISTER CITIZEN

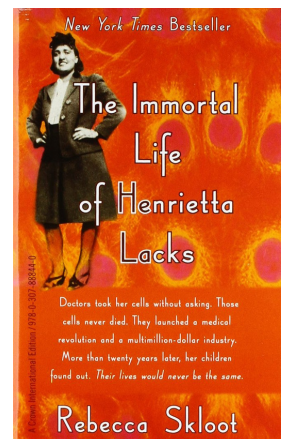
Melissa Harris-Perry

A must-read for media and history buffs, *Sister Citizen* examines the historical currency of stereotypes of Black women, exposing their painful origins, their perpetuation in popular culture, and the navigation of these images for Black women today.

## THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS

Rebecca Skloot

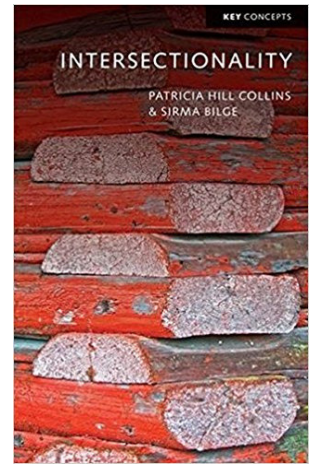
By now, we're sure you've heard the tale of Henrietta Lacks. Lacks was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, and cancer treatment. Henrietta's cells were used for profit by those in the medical industry amassing billions of dollars. Yet, Lacks died sick and penniless. Lacks' story is a fascinating tale of the exploitation of black bodies that continues to reverberate in our society.



## INTERSECTIONALITY (KEY CONCEPTS)

Patricia Hill Collins and Sirma Bilge

Intersectionality seems to be the buzzword of social justice movements today, but what does it actually mean? And how is it accurately practiced? In their new study, Patricia Hill Collins and Sirma Bilge explore and define the intersectionality and how it can be applied as an organizing and analytical tool in addressing human rights.



## UNBOSSSED AND UNBOUGHT

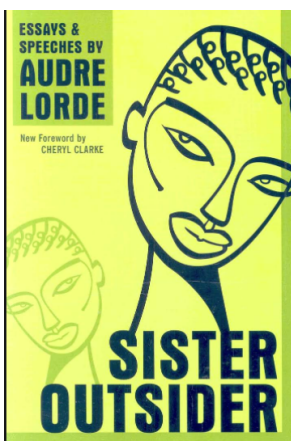
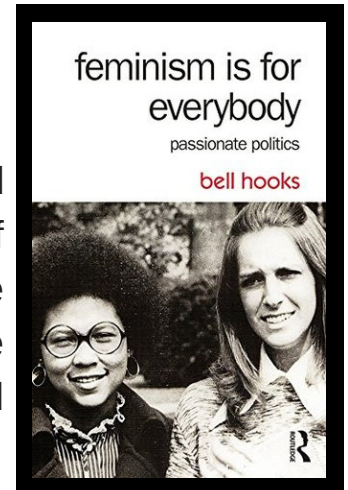
Shirley Chisholm

Icon and activist Shirley Chisholm existed to break barriers of race, gender, and class. In her inspiring autobiography, Chisholm details her meteoric rise from a young immigrant girl in Brooklyn to America's first African-American Congresswoman to her run for President of the United States.

## FEMINISM IS FOR EVERYBODY

bell hooks

No one pushes the envelope on conversations of race, gender and sexuality as consistently and provocatively as bell hooks. In a brief and biting tale, hooks examines the constructions of feminism, the second wave feminist movement and how feminist thought can be—and should—be applied to all those looking to seek justice and equality.



## SISTER OUTSIDER

Audre Lorde

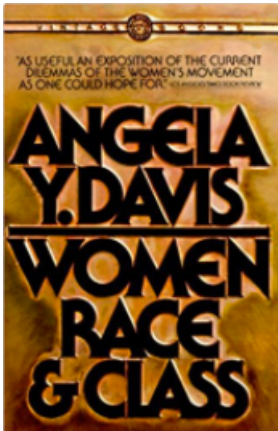
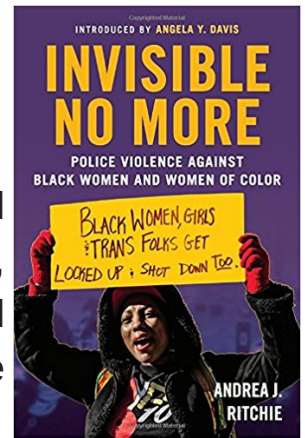
When you hear the word intersectionality, no one comes to mind quite like Audre Lorde. Lorde's most influential work is a collection of essays and critical studies on sexism, racism, ageism, homophobia, and class through her own experiences as a Black queer woman in 70s and 80s.



## INVISIBLE NO MORE

Andrea Ritchie

A new inclusion to the pantheon of work on black feminism and racial justice, *Invisible No More* documents how women of color, like men of color, experience racial profiling, police brutality, and immigration enforcement yet we see very little coverage of these issues in the media and they often go invisible.



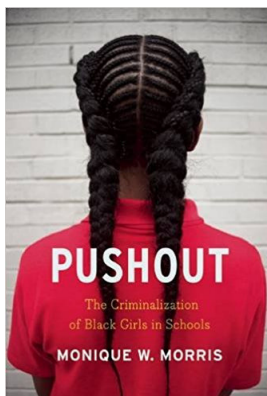
## WOMEN, RACE, AND CLASS

Angela Davis

No activists has been more unapologetic or open about race and gender than Angela Davis. In her iconic 1981 book, Davis studies the women's liberation movement in the U.S.—from abolitionist days to the present—and demonstrates how that movement has always been hampered by the racist and classist biases of its leaders.

## THE CRUNK FEMINIST COLLECTION

Brittney C. Cooper, Susana M. Morris, Robin M. Boylorn  
Very few writers are able to capture the essence of a generation. Yet, somehow *The Crunk Feminist Collection* manages to do just that. In a series of essays and studies, Cooper, Morris, and Boylorn discuss in blistering honesty, the relationship between race, gender, and feminism in 21st century for Black women.



## PUSHOUT: THE CRIMINALIZATION OF BLACK GIRLS IN SCHOOLS

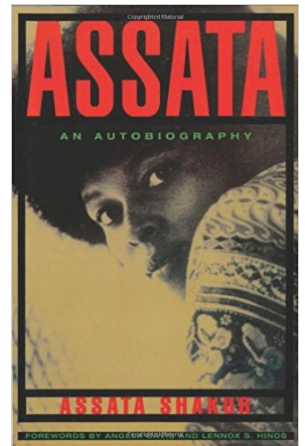
Monique Morris

Morris chronicles the experiences of Black girls across the country whose lives are misunderstood—by teachers, administrators, and the justice system—and degraded by the very institutions charged with helping them. *Pushout* exposes a world that push countless students out of school and into unstable and unsafe futures.

## ASSATA

Assata Shakur

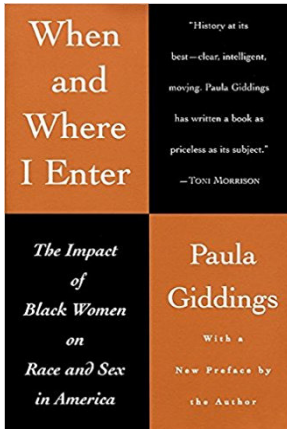
No one in history has proven as revolutionary in words, thoughts, and action as Assata Shakur. A freedom fighter in the Black Panther Movement, Shakur details her life, her struggles, and her activism in this riveting autobiography.



## WHEN AND WHERE I ENTER: THE IMPACT OF BLACK WOMEN ON RACE AND SEX IN AMERICA

Paula J Giddings

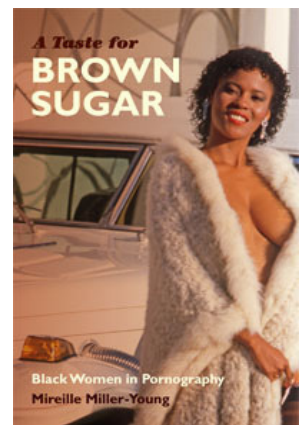
*When and Where I Enter* is a brilliant testimonial to the influence of African-American women on race and women's movements throughout American history. Using speeches, diaries, letters, and other original documents, Giddings examines how black women have transcended racist and sexist attitudes--often confronting white feminists and black male leaders alike--to initiate social and political reform.



## A TASTE FOR BROWN SUGAR: BLACK WOMEN IN PORNOGRAPHY

Mireille Miller-Young

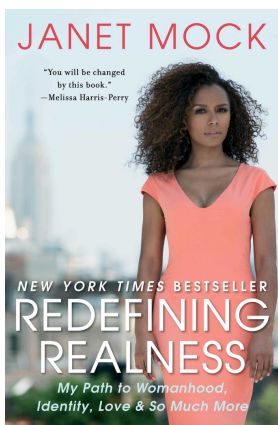
*Brown Sugar* boldly takes on representations of black women's sexuality in the porn industry. Miller-Young documents their interventions into the complicated history of black women's sexuality, looking at individual choices, however small—a costume, a gesture, an improvised line—as small acts of resistance, of what she calls "illicit eroticism."



## REDEFINING REALNESS: MY PATH TO WOMANHOOD, IDENTITY, LOVE & SO MUCH MORE

Janet Mock

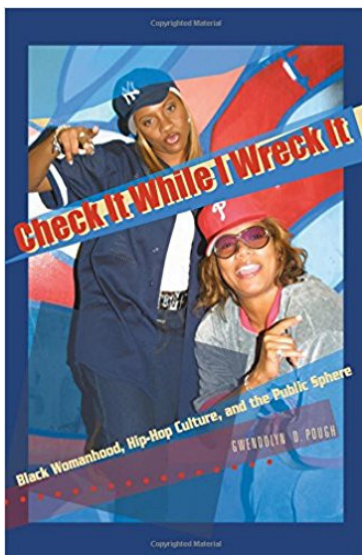
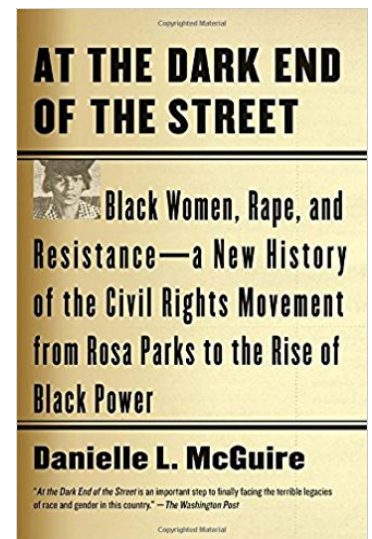
In her stirring autobiography, trans activist Janet Mock details her experiences of growing up young, multiracial, poor, and trans in America, offering readers accessible language while imparting vital insight about the unique challenges and vulnerabilities of a marginalized and misunderstood population.



# AT THE DARK END OF THE STREET: BLACK WOMEN, RAPE, AND RESISTANCE--A NEW HISTORY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT FROM ROSA PARKS TO THE RISE OF BLACK POWER

Danielle L. McGuire

In this groundbreaking book, McGuire writes about the 1944 rape of Recy Taylor in Abbeville, Alabama. On the side of the road, seven white men, armed with knives and shotguns, ordered the young woman into their car, raped her, and left her for dead. Once the story reached around Abbeville, the president of the local NAACP branch office sent his best investigator and organizer to find out more about the case--that organizer was Rosa Parks.



## CHECK IT WHILE I WRECK IT: BLACK WOMANHOOD, HIP-HOP CULTURE, AND THE PUBLIC SPHERE

Gwendolyn Pough

In this provocative study, Gwendolyn D. Pough explores the complex relationship between black women, hip-hop, and feminism. Examining a wide range of genres, including rap music, novels, spoken word poetry, hip-hop cinema, and hip-hop soul music, she traces the rhetoric of black women "bringing wreck."

## FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE/WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF

Ntozake Shange

Playwright and poet, Ntozake Shange stunned the theater world when she released her first work, For Colored Girls in 1974. In a series of poetic monologues, Shange uses movement, art, poetry, and song to explore the lives of seven different Black women in society. Heartbreaking, thoughtful, and provocative, For Colored Girls explores the creation of Black female identity in a world dictated by norms around race, gender, respectability, class, and sexuality.

