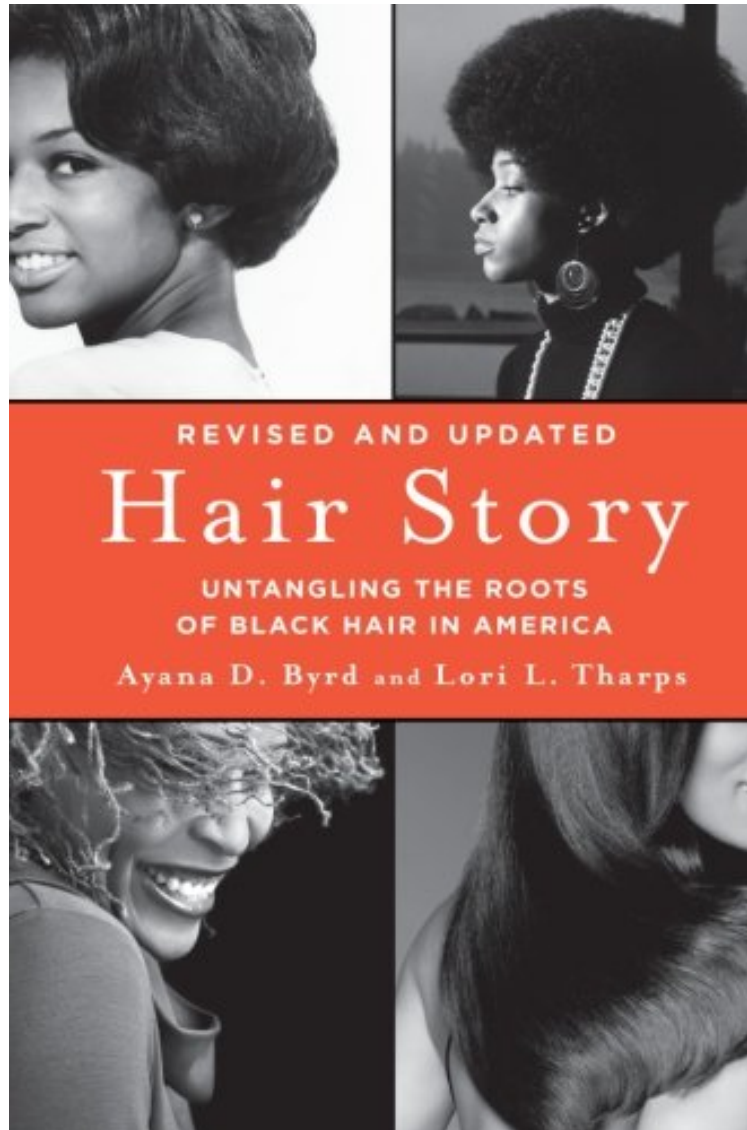


[Download] Hair Story: Untangling the Roots of Black Hair in America

## Hair Story: Untangling the Roots of Black Hair in America

*Ayana Byrd, Lori Tharps*

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**Ayana Byrd, Lori Tharps : Hair Story: Untangling the Roots of Black Hair in America** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hair Story: Untangling the Roots of Black Hair in America:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Such a fantastic and eye-opening bookBy Uchenna O.I love this book. It is so valuable to Black people, and Black girls and women in particular, simply because there is so much internalized tension between us and our hair. I am nowhere near finished, but I felt a strong urge to write a review

now, because only moments earlier I broke down into tears from what I read of this book. I broke down because I'm not even halfway through, but it has already painted a clear picture of the sick irony that is white supremacy. That is, the fact that White people can edge out Black people from their own creations made to combat white supremacy; sell the same products to Black people to perpetuate self-hate and white supremacy; and in the same breath, tell Black people that they are lazy racists when they try to regroup from white supremacy. This book is written rather matter-of-factly, but the contents are very raw, and they hit home. Beautiful work. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. *Black hair is Political* By Kimberly Harper I have spent an entire life trying to educate Black women on the fact that their hair is beautiful. Making the choice to change the texture is a personal one. However, I hope that Black women don't make the choice as a correction to their hair texture. There is too much self-hate in that. The point being natural Black hair is beautiful and should not be shame filled. Natural is the essence of who we are. I love my natural hair. [...] 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Hair Story Untangling the Rotts of Black Hair* By GENEVA JONES It does explain our hair thoroughly and it covers all the styles with pictures and the history of some of the styles. I do recommend it for anyone who wants to learn about the Black Hair Aesthetics.

Two world wars, the Civil Rights movement, and a Jheri curl later, Blacks in America continue to have a complex and convoluted relationship with their hair. From the antebellum practice of shaving the head in an attempt to pass as a "free" person to the 1998 uproar over a White third-grade teacher's reading of the book *Nappy Hair*, the issues surrounding African American hair continue to linger as we enter the twenty-first century. *Hair Story* is a historical and anecdotal exploration of Black Americans' tangled hair roots. A chronological look at the culture and politics behind the ever-changing state of Black hair from fifteenth-century Africa to the present-day United States, it ties the personal to the political and the popular. Read about: \* Why Black American slaves used items like axle grease and eel skin to straighten their hair. \* How a Mexican chemist straightened Black hair using his formula for turning sheep's wool into a minklike fur. \* How the Afro evolved from militant style to mainstream fashion trend. \* What prompted the creation of the Jheri curl and the popular style's fall from grace. \* The story behind Bo Derek's controversial cornrows and the range of reactions they garnered. Major figures in the history of Black hair are presented, from early hair-care entrepreneurs Annie Turnbo Malone and Madam C. J. Walker to unintended hair heroes like Angela Davis and Bob Marley. Celebrities, stylists, and cultural critics weigh in on the burgeoning sociopolitical issues surrounding Black hair, from the historically loaded terms "good" and "bad" hair, to Black hair in the workplace, to mainstream society's misrepresentation and misunderstanding of kinky locks. *Hair Story* is the book that Black Americans can use as a benchmark for tracing a unique aspect of their history, and it's a book that people of all races will celebrate as the reference guide for understanding Black hair.

[An] entertaining and concise survey . . . A book that successfully balances popular appeal with historical accuracy. Publishers Weekly Taps into the art and history of how Black hair is perceived in America in a way that will no doubt be relevant for generations to come. The Source *Hair Story* presents an absorbing rendition of American history told through Black hair. In prose that is both humorous and haunting, the authors manage to bring vividly to life a subject most would consider inconsequential. After reading this comprehensive tale, people will walk away with a whole new appreciation for Black hair and all of its wonder and power. Lloyd Boston, author of *Men of Color: Fashion, History, Fundamentals* From antiquity to the present day, Black hair has been both ornamentation and a medium of artistic expression. At the same time, its changing political and cultural values have often mirrored the current social climate. *Hair Story*, in documenting our natural hair's beauty and capacity for communication, brings to life and infuses with historical relevance this unique slice of Americana. Harriette Cole, author of *Jumping the Broom* and *How to Be* [This book combines] keen historical insight with pop-cultural anecdotes. Entertainment Weekly A comprehensive and colorful look at a very touchy subject. Essence About the Author Ayana D. Byrd graduated from Barnard College and is the co-editor of *Naked: Black Women Bare All About Their Skin, Hair, Hips, Lips and Other Parts*. Her work has appeared in numerous anthologies, as well as magazines including *Glamour*, *Essence* and *Rolling Stone*. She lives in Brooklyn, New York. Lori L. Tharps is an assistant professor of journalism at Temple University. A graduate of Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, she is also the author of the memoir *Kinky Gazpacho: Life, Love Spain*. She lives in Philadelphia with her husband and three children.