



Talking Back: Thinking Feminist, Thinking Black

By bell hooks

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In childhood, bell hooks was taught that "talking back" meant speaking as an equal to an authority figure and daring to disagree and/or have an opinion. In this collection of personal and theoretical essays, hooks reflects on her signature issues of racism and feminism, politics and pedagogy. Among her discoveries is that moving from silence into speech is for the oppressed, the colonized, the exploited, and those who stand and struggle side by side, a gesture of defiance that heals, making new life and new growth possible.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Hooks, a pen name for Gloria Watkins, the author of *Ain't I A Woman: Black Women and Feminism*, here gathers essays that also focus on being black and feminist in America. She begins by recounting painful personal experiences: growing up in a repressive, Southern, "father-dominated household," attending a segregated high school, struggling to find her own, persuasive voice and become a writer, and learning to deal with racism and sexism while studying at "predominately white universities" in Wisconsin and California. Hooks then moves on to a general discussion of the women's movement and how "white supremacy" in our society adversely affects it. Although the author makes perceptive and provocative observations, they are diminished by redundancy and weakened by her doctrinaire Marxist rhetoric: "In resistance, the exploited, the oppressed work to expose the false reality to reclaim and recover ourselves. We make the revolutionary history." In addition, the author employs labels such as "got everything White people." Ultimately, she fails to convince or even to use her own voice.

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From Library Journal

Activist/academician hooks (*Ain't I a Woman: Black Women & Feminism and Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center*) has here collected 23 of her angry, intelligent, critical, and compelling essays on subjects as diverse as writing autobiography, teaching women's literature, black homophobia, intimate violence, racist feminists, black porn, and politics at Yale. Her blend of the personal and theoretical, political and intellectual, provides a unique perspective on issues of current concern among blacks, women, and educators. Her writing is lucid, confrontational, and challenging sure to offend a few but, it is to be hoped, sought after by those whose collections include the original, humorous, and courageous. Beverly Miller, Boise State Univ. Lib., Id.

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Review

Praise for the book:

"On the one hand, [*Talking Back*] is a political treatise of the Black feminist movement as it grapples with the contradictions of class, gender, and sexual relations; on the other, it is a deeply intimate account of personal and political maturation within that framework." ?Melba Wilson, *Feminist Review* (1989)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Katherine Anderson:

The book *Talking Back: Thinking Feminist, Thinking Black* give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable a lot more increase. Book can for being your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem with the subject. If you can make reading through a book *Talking Back: Thinking Feminist, Thinking Black* being your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your own personal capable, increase your knowledge about many or all subjects. You could know

everything if you like wide open and read a book Talking Back: Thinking Feminist, Thinking Black. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or some others. So , how do you think about this publication?

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The book Talking Back: Thinking Feminist, Thinking Black has a lot of information on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was authored by the very famous author. Mcdougal makes some research previous to write this book. That book very easy to read you can get the point easily after reading this article book.

Sandra Davis:

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