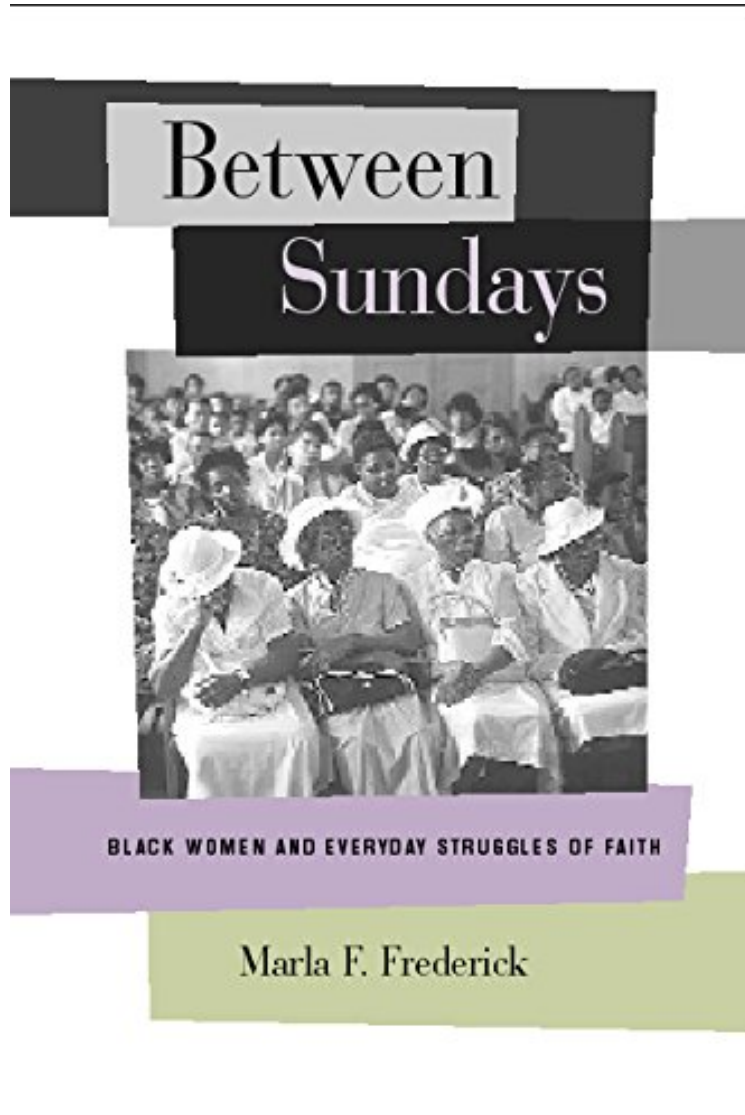


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Between Sundays: Black Women and Everyday Struggles of Faith

Marla F. Frederick

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Marla F. Frederick : Between Sundays: Black Women and Everyday Struggles of Faith before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Between Sundays: Black Women and Everyday Struggles of Faith:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Research on Black Women's Spirituality "From the Inside"By Kisha RossBetween Sundays is some of the best scholarship on Black Women's Spiritual Practice that I have ever come across both during and after my graduate studies. I had a copy about 7 years ago and it got lost during one of my

multiple moves. I ordered a second copy again in 2014 because I needed well-researched scholarship to serve as a counterbalance while I read Sophia Nelson's *Black Woman Redefined: Dispelling Myths and Discovering Fulfillment in the Age of Michelle Obama*. Both books give an excellent commentary on contemporary African American culture. However, in my opinion, Dr. Frederick does a better job of maintaining the objectivity that one expects a scholar to have even when reporting on a cultural phenomenon that is part of her own culture. In her writing, Dr. Frederick is able to position herself in the writing and research in a dual role as both objective observer and a subjective participant. Her writings remind me of excerpts I read from Zora Neale Hurston's accounts of West African Caribbean culture during one of my grad-level anthropology courses. If looked at in this light, *Between Sundays* is a unique piece of scholarship: Dr. Frederick is able to analyze Black women's Christianity in the Deep South at a deep level precisely because Dr. Frederick is a Black Christian woman herself. The author expresses her concerns about maintaining the type of objectivity that her discipline requires. In my opinion, Dr. Frederick does an excellent job of disclosing her biases and potential conflicts of interest in the opening chapter before moving forward with her analysis. I would guess that someone who is not African American may be able to pinpoint weaknesses in her analysis citing that the author is "blind" to her biases because she is "too close to the issue"; however, in my perspective this work has characteristics that will allow it to serve as a model for students of sociology anthropology who wish to study their home cultures from the inside so that they can make observations of value to people both inside and outside of their own culture(s). 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. My book By SnakeDoctor9A lot of information based on research. Very enlightening. A little less spiritually uplifting than I anticipated. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Excellent

To be a black woman of faith in the American South is to understand and experience spirituality in a particular way. How this understanding expresses itself in everyday practices of faith is the subject of *Between Sundays*, an innovative work that takes readers beyond common misconceptions and narrow assumptions about black religion and into the actual complexities of African American women's spiritual lives. Gracefully combining narrative, interviews, and analysis, this book explores the personal, political, and spiritual commitments of a group of Baptist women whose experiences have been informed by the realities of life in a rural, southern community. In these lives, "spirituality" emerges as a space for creative agency, of vital importance to the ways in which these women interpret, inform, and reshape their social conditions--conditions often characterized by limited access to job opportunities, health care, and equitable schooling. In the words of these women, and in Marla F. Frederick's deft analysis, we see how spirituality expressed as gratitude, empathy, or righteous discontent operates as a transformative power in women's interactions with others, and in their own more intimate renegotiations of self.

From the Inside Flap "A wonderful ethnographic study of the role of religion in a southern rural community. Through a complex and fascinating array of African American women's voices, Marla Frederick speaks to the power of religious consciousness for social change today." Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Professor of History and Afro-American Studies, Harvard University "Every once in a great while, a work that is remarkable, original, and truly distinguished rises to the top of the pile of books glutting American bookstores--and this is that one. *Between Sundays* may just reshape the entire field, obliging scholars and educated readers to consider African American religion and gender in a new, fantastic light." R. Marie Griffith, Princeton University, author of *God's Daughters: Evangelical Women and the Power of Submission* "Frederick has made an extremely significant contribution to the literature of African American women's religious histories and experience. A powerful and engaging portrait of a fascinating group of black Southern women." Judith Weisenfeld, Associate Professor of Religion, Vassar College, and author of *African American Women and Christian Activism*