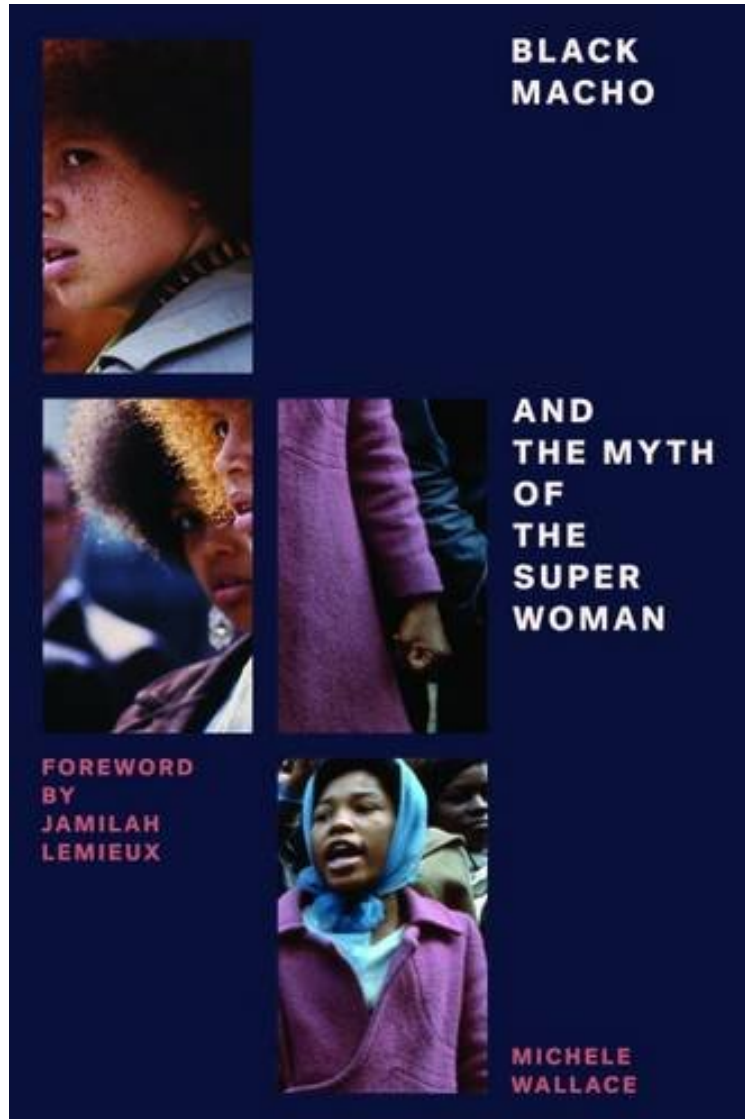


(Read and download) Black Macho and the Myth of the Superwoman (Feminist Classics)

## Black Macho and the Myth of the Superwoman (Feminist Classics)

*Michele Wallace*

*\*Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#943717 in Books 2015-06-09 2015-06-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.30 x .80 x 5.50l, .81 #File Name: 1781688214272 pages | File size: 56.Mb

**Michele Wallace : Black Macho and the Myth of the Superwoman (Feminist Classics)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Black Macho and the Myth of the Superwoman (Feminist Classics):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. African American Feminist ViewpointBy Gwynne CarterThis book was a history lesson for me and brought up a lot of sensitive issues and real experiences that my ancestors went through in their quest for freedom and equality. I would recommend this book to anyone, but I would highly

recommend it to our younger African Americans male and female who do not know our struggles. Ms. Wallace did her research and has made some very valid points as to why the condition of our race is what it is, in this day and time. This was especially a great read for black history month. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I love Michele Wallace for discussing the undiscussable in this book! By Customer I needed this drink! This book was well thought out and written well. Every woman, especially Black Women of the African diaspora, in America, should read this book for a more realistic overview (breakdown) of the Black, intellectual woman from the ghetto. Read this book Sis! I wished I would have read this book in my college years... 6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. For Wallace, the civil rights movement meant "A white woman in every bed and a black woman under every heel" By MagicSinglez This is an account of Michele Wallace's experiences with the civil rights movement and growing up in the late 60's. Judith Wilson, who reviewed this for Ebony Magazine, has since said, "it was a pioneer work. Angela Davis's book 'Women, Race and Class' wasn't published until 2 years later. Ntozake Shange's play 'For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide' had moved to Broadway but its approach was poetic rather than analytical". Wallace mentions of the ladies in her family, 'It was understood, you were either going to be a bright success or a desperate failure, and it was your job to proclaim which you were going to be at as early an age as possible'. She recalls how she was taken out of private Catholic school when her mom found posters of Richard Nixon in the bedroom she shared with her sister, 'can you believe it? we were that brainwashed'. Things would be entirely different at the NY school where she transferred. . . This book, about Black women being shortchanged, is probably most relevant for women who came of age during the period of time from the 1960s to the 1990s. It has some relevance today, though, as it probably would have before the 60s as well. For the most part Wallace implies black women are oppressed and almost never tells us they are. On its surface, this could possibly have the working title, "Why I became a feminist". Black Macho is an odd read and yet a modernly familiar one. At times, one is struck with a feeling Wallace is trying to say something completely opposite from what is literally on the page. Is she a master propagandist or does she know her audience and want to keep them reading? She begins each chapter with a true-ism, for instance, this genuine one, 'white men were always the ones making pronouncements about everything' and ends up at the end of the chapter quoting a figure proclaiming, 'Kill Whitey'. This is almost an expose' of the civil rights movement. Some of the irony may be intentional. The defining statement of the book is Wallace saying "the civil rights movement meant a white woman in every bed and a black woman under every heel". Wallace also says that black men and women have a sometime dislike for each other, stemming in part from black men/white women relationships, and she asserts a lack of confidence he would, in her words, "come home". Wallace was criticized some for Black Macho and one has to wonder: is this criticism (of a work claiming black women are treated unfairly) simply proof of her thesis? 20 years later she says, "in some ways I'm still being punished today". To be honest, 'Sexism', was a major issue in the public eye at the time, but I might argue, only for white women. It's been said that liberal Bill Clinton, being accused of sexism, did a bit to reduce some of the perception of it. Wallace doesn't ignore the media in her book. She asks, was there a conscious effort to keep young minds focused on sports, guns and violence, and off business, education and the stock market? She begins her treatise on 'Black Macho' (the 2nd half of the book) with, "Imagine for a moment that there was a part of your body, an organ, that by the very nature of the society in which you lived, existed under immense pressure. Imagine that this organ, placed in a conspicuously vulnerable position on your body, was to expand, rise, and remain erect at will. Imagine that your status in society depended upon your ability to control this organ. Imagine that if you couldn't get the damn thing to work, the very importance of your existence would be in question". This is a sensationalist, titillating book filled with the 'F' word, 'Redneck', the 'N' word, and lots of people saying kill the bigots. I imagine Wallace secretly enjoyed writing this even as she's mentioned she secretly enjoyed listening to Norman Mailer's rants about the women's movement (Wallace was a journalist for the Village Voice a paper Mailer founded). I don't think she enjoyed writing this as much as I enjoyed reading. Wallace was presenting unique ideas. She may have felt pressure to go along with the ideas people did believe in at the time (or perhaps felt a desire to be understood), and I think what might be going on with this work is that it is an example of the 'Wilson Rule' (If you have one politically Incorrect idea {here the idea being that black women are the ones being taken advantage of}, you have to smother it in 6 politically correct statements). Countless books have been written in this manner (tho only a minority of those at the library), each examining one un-PC idea the author believes in, and, so the author can sound reasonable, accepting every other popular convention of the day. The problem is. . . at the end of the day, best case scenario, a young reader's learned 6 lies and 1 thing that's true? Wallace chronicles the fact that after rioting or violence took place, a pro-revolution march or activist conference would take place in the community nearby. I didn't notice this (what for Wallace is obviously connected) on first reading (the idea that an event or campaign blitz to convince everyone the world cares about you, agrees with you, and is on your side - a snow job - even an affirmative action plan, can quell your violence). Why not even say it's the other guy who is ignorant and violent? I remember a character in a movie once saying, "You can't fool us by agreeing with us". There is the question of whether the initial act of violence was staged or not, and how soon will it be they'll want us to believe, the resultant 'sympathy' is actually the Cause! Creating our beliefs being the never ending job that it is. There's something going on here tho other than just 'black vs white in the South'. There's a global, colonial, corporate exploitation going on. People in China somewhere who have never

been within 500 miles of a white person their entire lives understand this idea of white-guilt (I might add, even as they drive to their lighted conferences on democracy). Perhaps it is even a subconscious, gleeful-guilt (where whites fear no punishment). This is something Wallace at the very least hints at. Black women may have been victims but they internalized a completely different idea, at least vis-a-vis black men? Might the assignment of blame and applause, guilt and innocence, change? Wallace was in one of my college textbooks, quoted for her reaction to gangster rap. For her, the solution for women everywhere will be found, when, "...women rap back". Not long after I noticed Queen Latifah with a big music video out titled, 'Unity'. Eminem would follow. To be fair and give my own view I could be called a 'conservative' but I think what really needs to happen is for whites, and men, and white men in particular, to begin speaking up and out for themselves. I'm not sure that's hypocrisy. It will only be after White men are denied 'affirmative action', too, these programs will begin to end for everyone else. Everyone else being every human on Earth who can somehow set foot inside the US. One thing is certain, the more any organization uses AA, the more the public face put forth will be that it is White men who are discriminating, and that this is wrong and evil. AA will end, after all, there will no longer be a need to encourage private citizens to continue discriminating against White men in their personal lives, too? White men, those towering (and perhaps a bit guilty) figures of immense privilege, or for us to continue turning a discerning, educated, blind eye, towards it (or even looking the opposite way? I just don't think, say, the fact most black children grow up poor will be enough to continue AA for another 50 years? I'm personally closer to being a conservative I suppose... I'm somewhat of an 'anti-feminist'. Perhaps I'm just a chauvinist (I've certainly been called a lot worse!). I'm not wedded to any particular ideology tho - I find them all interesting. Guess I'm a sympathizer - as well as a chauvinist. Michele Wallace is paid to be a feminist. After Black Macho, Wallace would edit a work titled, "All the women are white; all the blacks are men, but some of us are brave". She teaches a number of college courses and also a seminar in film studies at CUNY, 'Performance and Race in Cinema 1890-1930's' where she says, "Despite the many objectionable features, this is a body of work which is collectively unforgettable and irreplaceable". I would trade all these films for 'Black Macho and the Myth of the Superwoman'. I couldn't help but like the voice of woman who wrote this book. I was in awe of Wallace. No. I was in love with the woman who wrote these words.

Originally published in 1978, Black Macho and the Myth of the Superwoman caused a storm of controversy. Michele Wallace blasted the masculine biases of the black politics that emerged from the sixties. She described how women remained marginalized by the patriarchal culture of Black Power, demonstrating the ways in which a genuine female subjectivity was blocked by the traditional myths of black womanhood. With a foreword that examines the debate the book has sparked between intellectuals and political leaders, as well as what has and, crucially, has not changed over the last four decades, Black Macho and the Myth of the Superwoman continues to be deeply relevant to current feminist debates and black theory today.

A landmark black feminist text ... Deserves rereading. Ms. One of the first books truly critiquing the systems in place, ways of thinking and being that feed the myth of black women as the ultimate heroine. The Root A light to Black Feminism, Women and Gender Studies, African American and Diaspora Studies, Film Studies, popular culture, the art world, and beyond. Feminist Wire Serious, well-written, effective in its demystification, valuable as a model of hardheaded but caring analysis, principled in its criticism ... Wallaces fearless presentation of her analysis quite takes the breath away. Toni Cade Bambara, Washington Post Courageous, outspoken, clear-eyed. Publishers Weekly About the Author Michele Wallace is Professor of English at CUNY's Graduate Center and City College. She was Editor-at-Large for Essence magazine and a columnist for the Village Voice.