



A Shining Thread of Hope

By Darlene Clark Hine, Kathleen Thompson

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At the greatest moments and in the cruelest times, black women have been a crucial part of America's history. Now, the inspiring history of black women in America is explored in vivid detail by two leaders in the fields of African American and women's history.

A Shining Thread of Hope chronicles the lives of black women from indentured servitude in the early American colonies to the cruelty of antebellum plantations, from the reign of lynch law in the Jim Crow South to the triumphs of the Civil Rights era, and it illustrates how the story of black women in America is as much a tale of courage and hope as it is a history of struggle. On both an individual and a collective level, **A Shining Thread of Hope** reveals the strength and spirit of black women and brings their stories from the fringes of American history to a central position in our understanding of the forces and events that have shaped this country.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

This history of the experience of black women opens with an account of the life of Lucy Terry, who was brought as a slave to Deerfield, Massachusetts, when she was a child in about 1735. At 16, Terry wrote a poem, "Bars Fight," the first work of literature by a black American. Years later, married and free, Terry argued for the admission of her son to Williams College and, when a white man tried to take her family's land, she took the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. Terry's story is typical of those in *A Shining Thread of Hope*, which brings together centuries of achievement by black women. As coauthors Darlene Clark Hine and Kathleen Thompson put it, "The extraordinary achievements of black women in the 19th and 20th centuries did not grow out of degradation but out of a legacy of courage, resourcefulness, initiative, and dignity that goes back to 1619."

From Library Journal

In an extraordinary narrative personalized for easy reading, Hine (Michigan State Univ.), perhaps the leading historian of U.S. black women, and Thompson, editor-in-chief of *Facts on File's Encyclopedia of Black Women* (LJ 4/15/97), convey the plight and pluck of African American women from their arrival at Jamestown, VA, in 1619 to what the authors describe as a new era at the dawn of the year 2000. Celebrating black women's historical strength, Hine and Thompson accentuate resistance and survival in their 12 chapters. They focus on flesh-and-blood women whose stories of persistence, protest, and progress flow together with famous and unfamiliar names sharing an unbreakable thread spun by faithful and industrious self-reliance. Without peer as a single-volume history of being black and female in America, this book is an inviting opening to the fast-growing scholarship on African American women to which Hine has so richly contributed. Highly recommended for collections on blacks, women, or U.S. history.

-ABrenda M. Brock, *Univ. at Buffalo, NY*, & Thomas J. Davis, *Arizona State Univ., Tempe*
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From [Booklist](#)

Hine, Michigan State University American history professor, and Thompson, author of many books for juveniles, have worked together in various capacities on reference books, including *Black Women in America* (1992) and *Facts On File Encyclopedia of Black Women in America* (1997). Here they collaborate on a gracefully written survey of nearly four centuries of history, drawing on recent studies of black women's roles and experiences in different regions, industries, and eras. Hine and Thompson enliven their chronological narrative with individual women's stories; their themes across the centuries are involvement with community, education as a high priority, individual sense of worth and dignity (as a balance to community), and authentic triumph in the remarkable, creative ways that African American women have devised "to educate children, resist the oppression of slavery, support their churches, build hospitals, register voters, and get elected to the United States Senate." A lively, readable study of the nation's history through the eyes and experiences of African American women that is likely to be useful for school reports as well as leisure reading. *Mary Carroll*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carla Smith:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive today, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a reserve your ability to survive raise then having chance to stand than other is high. In your case who want to start reading a book, we give you this particular A Shining Thread of Hope book as basic and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

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