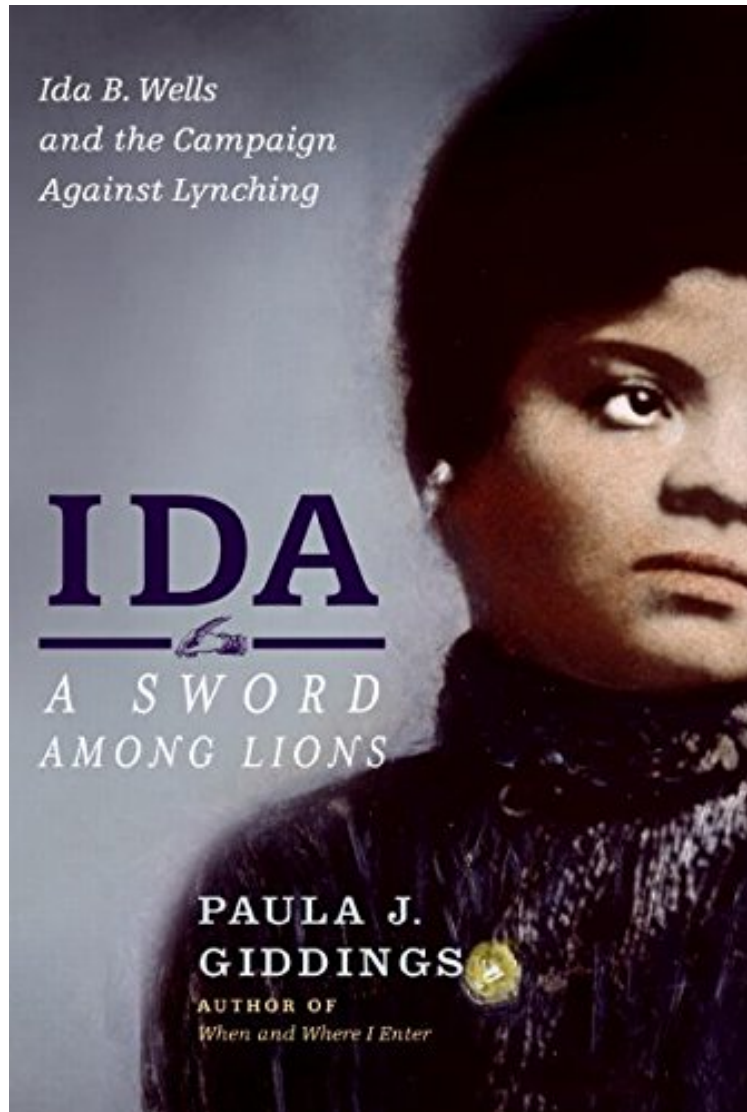


[Ebook free] *Ida: A Sword Among Lions: Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching*

Ida: A Sword Among Lions: Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching

Paula J. Giddings

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Paula J. Giddings : *Ida: A Sword Among Lions: Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching* before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Ida: A Sword Among Lions: Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching*:

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In the tradition of towering biographies that tell us as much about America as they do about their subject, *Ida: A Sword Among Lions* is a sweeping narrative about a country and a crusader embroiled in the struggle against lynching: a practice that imperiled not only the lives of black men and women, but also a nation based on law and riven by race. At the center of the national drama is Ida B. Wells (1862-1931), born to slaves in Mississippi, who began her activist career by refusing to leave a first-class ladies' car on a Memphis railway and rose to lead the nation's first campaign against lynching. For Wells the key to the rise in violence was embedded in attitudes not only about black men but about women and sexuality as well. Her independent perspective and percussive personality gained her encomiums as a hero -- as well as aspersions on her character and threats of death. Exiled from the South by 1892, Wells subsequently took her campaign across the country and throughout the British Isles before she married and settled in Chicago, where she continued her activism as a journalist, suffragist, and independent candidate in the rough-and-tumble world of the Windy City's politics. In this eagerly awaited biography by Paula J. Giddings, author of the groundbreaking book *When and Where I Enter*, which traced the activist history of black women in America, the irrepressible personality of Ida B. Wells surges out of the pages. With meticulous research and vivid rendering of her subject, Giddings also provides compelling portraits of twentieth-century progressive luminaries, black and white, with whom Wells worked during some of the most tumultuous periods in American history. Embattled all of her activist life, Wells found herself fighting not only conservative adversaries but icons of the civil rights and women's suffrage movements who sought to undermine her place in history. In this definitive biography, which places Ida B. Wells firmly in the context of her times as well as ours, Giddings at long last gives this visionary reformer her due and, in the process, sheds light on an aspect of our history that is often left in the shadows.

"A groundbreaking biography gives this warrior her due." (*O* magazine) A sweeping and timely biographical narrative about Ida B. Wells...a paragon of American history. (*Ebony*) "A hearty thumbs-up for this powerful retelling of her life." (*Essence*) "Paula J. Giddings *IDA: A SWORD AMONG LIONS* (Amistad) is a worthy biography of the vibrant crusader who led the nation's first campaign against lynching." (*Vogue*) "Ida B. Wells was an inspired journalist, an uncompromising civil libertarian, and a woman far ahead of her patriarchal times—a 'difficult' woman. Paula Giddings's monumental achievement restores this extraordinary contrarian to her place as one of the grand pace-setters of American social justice and female empowerment." (David Levering Lewis, Pulitzer Prize-Winning biographer of W.E.B. DuBois) "History at its best—clear, intelligent, moving. Paula Giddings has written a book as priceless as its subject." (Toni Morrison) "The best interpretation of black women and race and sex that we have." (*Women's of Books on When and Where I Enter*) About the Author Paula J. Giddings is the Elizabeth A. Woodson 1922 Professor in Afro-American Studies at Smith College and the author of *When and Where I Enter* and *In Search of Sisterhood*.