

(Free) Intimate Justice: The Black Female Body and the Body Politic

## Intimate Justice: The Black Female Body and the Body Politic

*Shatema Threadcraft*

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**Shatema Threadcraft : Intimate Justice: The Black Female Body and the Body Politic** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Intimate Justice: The Black Female Body and the Body Politic:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy FranciscoThreadcraft brilliantly expands our ideas of justice. Clear and powerful. Among the best I've ever read.

In 1973, the year the women's movement won an important symbolic victory with Roe v. Wade, reports surfaced that

twelve-year-old Minnie Lee Relf and her fourteen-year-old sister Mary Alice, the daughters of black Alabama farm hands, had been sterilized without their or their parents' knowledge or consent. Just as women's ability to control reproduction moved to the forefront of the feminist movement, the Relf sisters' plight stood as a reminder of the ways in which the movement's accomplishments had diverged sharply along racial lines. Thousands of forced sterilizations were performed on black women during this period, convincing activists in the Black Power, civil rights and women's movements that they needed to address, pointedly, the racial injustices surrounding equal access to reproductive labor and intimate life in America. As horrific as the Relf tragedy was, it fit easily within a set of critical events within black women's sexual and reproductive history in America, which black feminists argue began with coerced reproduction and enforced child neglect in the period of enslavement. While reproductive rights activists and organizations, historians and legal scholars have all begun to grapple with this history and its meaning, political theorists have yet to do so. *Intimate Justice* charts the long and still incomplete path to black female intimate freedom and equality--a path marked by infanticides, sexual terrorism, race riots, coerced sterilizations and racially biased child removal policies. In order to challenge prevailing understandings of freedom and equality, Shatema Threadcraft considers the troubled status of black female intimate life during four moments: antebellum slavery, Reconstruction, the nadir, and the civil rights and women's movement eras. Taking up important and often overlooked aspects of the necessary conditions for justice, Threadcraft's book is a compelling challenge to the meaning of equality in American race and gender relations.

"With theoretical sophistication and admirable moral clarity, *Intimate Justice* reframes what corrective racial justice should entail by taking the deprivation of black women's intimate capacities as its starting point. Threadcraft makes a compelling case that the debate about racial justice has focused almost exclusively on the civic harms suffered by blacks in the public sphere, thereby overlooking the thwarting of black women's intimate capacities in the private sphere. She brilliantly spells out what a fuller account of racial justice would entail." --Juliet Hooker, Associate Professor of Government and African Diaspora Studies, University of Texas at Austin "Establishing meaningful intimate justice is every bit as important as economic and political justice.' Shatema Threadcraft's *Intimate Justice* powerfully demonstrates the wisdom of that claim and the urgency of developing a theory of freedom that locates the historical and contemporary experiences of African American women and girls at its center. This is a foundational text for all political theorists." --Lawrie Balfour, author of *Democracy's Reconstruction: Thinking Politically with W.E.B. Du Bois* "Threadcraft's *Intimate Justice* is remarkably confident, sophisticated, and engrossing. This fresh, ambitious work successfully brings feminist political theory together with Black feminist thought, richly exploring ways to think about and achieve justice within the sphere of intimate relations." --Rickie Solinger, author of *Reproductive Justice: What Everyone Needs to Know About the Author* Shatema Threadcraft is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and a member of the Graduate faculty of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University. Her research has been supported by the Ford Foundation, the American Association of University Women, the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard University, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis and the Rutgers Center for Race and Ethnicity.