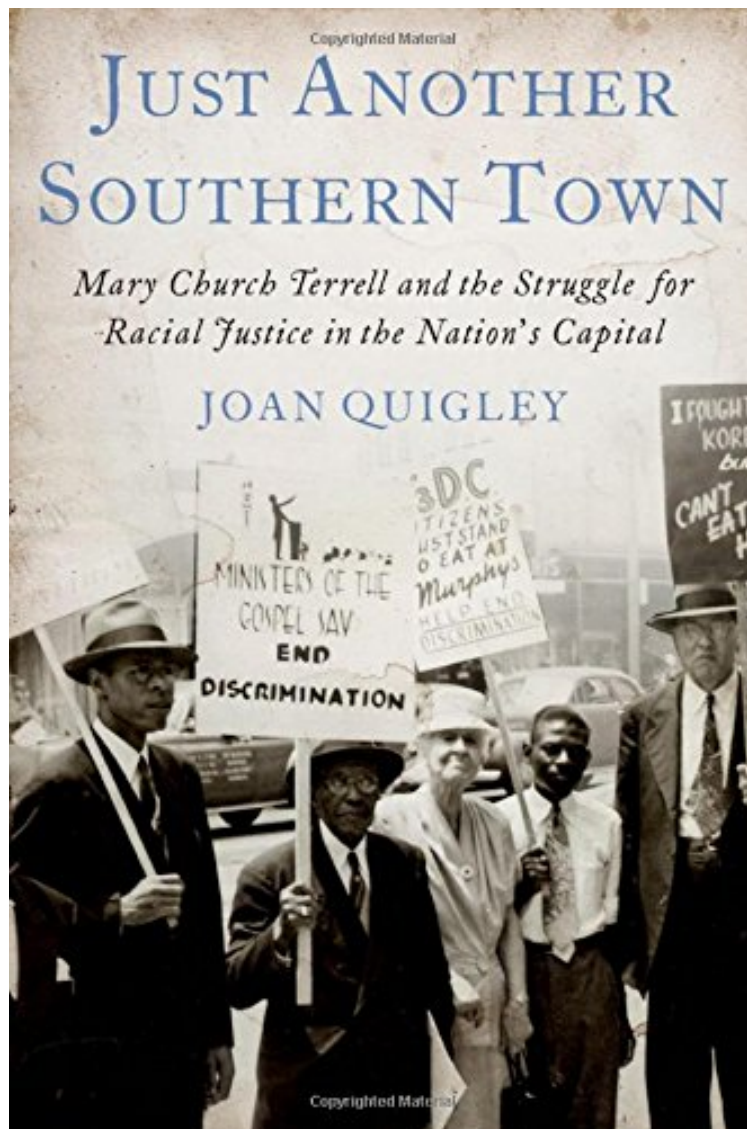


[Download pdf] Just Another Southern Town: Mary Church Terrell and the Struggle for Racial Justice in the Nation's Capital

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Joan Quigley

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Joan Quigley : **Just Another Southern Town: Mary Church Terrell and the Struggle for Racial Justice in the Nation's Capital** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Just Another Southern Town: Mary Church Terrell and the Struggle for Racial Justice in the Nation's Capital:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating and Disturbing!By vgThis is a fascinating account of

events leading up to the Supreme Court case *District of Columbia v. John R. Thompson Co, Inc.* and how this unanimous decision was influenced by a long forgotten (or rejected) reconstruction-era law that had “mysteriously disappeared”. In telling the story of Mary Church Terrell, a black graduate of Oberlin College in 1884, and her fight to be treated with the same deference as white Washington residents, Quigley takes us on an intriguing behind-the-scenes glimpse at the personalities, prejudices and proclivities of Supreme Court justices, presidents and politicians in the first half of the twentieth century and offers insight into the scheming of the House Un-American Activities Committee to label blacks working toward equal rights as communists and communist sympathizers. Within the pages of the book are found appalling blots on United States history and its treatment of blacks--the first Red Scare which was encouraged by the most influential and respected newspapers of the day, segregated seating for blacks at the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial, blatant racism by politicians—“God was the first author of segregation”, newspapers and television stations. *Just Another Southern Town* is so much more than the biography of Mary Church Terrell. It is the story of the appalling struggle for equality and justice for African Americans in this country. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Such a Remarkable Heroine in *Just Another Southern Town* By John T. Queenan MD Joan Quigley presents a valiant civil rights heroine who is little known but of enormous import. Born in the year of the Emancipation Proclamation Mary Church Terrell, teacher, writer, and civil rights activist, and one of the first black women to receive a college degree in the US, at age 86, was in her prime! The US was in the struggle of overcoming the Jim Crow laws that had mandated segregation mainly in the South during the post reconstruction era. Yet, in Washington DC, our Nation’s Capital, segregation was the practice in restaurants, theaters, transportation, and schools. Thompsons Restaurant, just 4 blocks from the White House, is where Terrell changed history. She and her colleagues were refused service by the manager and the battle was on. Join Joan Quigley’s presentation of this critical time in civil rights history as she portrays the struggle and determination of this heroic activist with exquisite clarity. Quigley’s skill in research and reporting is remarkable. Her background as a lawyer, journalist, and former US government employee have helped her make this book a compelling read. John T. Queenan MD January 28, 2016 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Illuminating and impressive-- required reading for anyone drawn to American history and the fight for civil rights. By Christina E. McGill I couldn't put this compelling, vividly written book down. In chronicling this important, largely under-told story, the author has illuminated a gripping moment in history that reverberates profoundly today. I was riveted; and greatly appreciate both the story of the amazing Mary Church Terrell and the case itself. *Just Another Southern Town* is a must addition to the shelves of anyone interested in the history of civil rights in this country.

In January of 1950, Mary Church Terrell, an 86-year-old charter member of the NAACP, headed into Thompson's Restaurant, just a few blocks from the White House, and requested to be served. She and her companions were informed by the manager that they could not eat in his establishment, because they were "colored." Terrell, a former suffragette and one of the country's first college-educated African American women, took the matter to court. Three years later, the Supreme Court vindicated her outrage: *District of Columbia v. John R. Thompson Co., Inc.* was decided in June 1953, invalidating the segregation of restaurants and cafes in the nation's capital. In *Just Another Southern Town*, Joan Quigley recounts an untold chapter of the civil rights movement: an epic battle to topple segregation in Washington, the symbolic home of American democracy. At the book's heart is the formidable Mary Church Terrell and the test case she mounts seeking to enforce Reconstruction-era laws prohibiting segregation in D.C. restaurants. Through the prism of Terrell's story, Quigley reassesses Washington's relationship to civil rights history, bringing to life a pivotal fight for equality that erupted five years before Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of a Montgomery bus and a decade before the student sit-in movement rocked segregated lunch counters across the South. At a time when most civil rights scholarship begins with *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Just Another Southern Town* unearths the story of the nation's capital as an early flashpoint on race. A rich portrait of American politics and society in the mid-20th century, it interweaves Terrell's narrative with the courtroom drama of the case and the varied personalities of the justices who ultimately voted unanimously to prohibit segregated restaurants. Resonating with gestures of courage and indignation that radiate from the capital's streets and sidewalks to its marble-clad seats of power, this work restores Mary Church Terrell and the case that launched a crusade to their rightful place in the pantheon of civil rights history.

"A retelling of the events leading up to the landmark civil rights Supreme Court case *District of Columbia v. John R. Thompson Co., Inc.*, which invalidated segregated restaurants in the city in 1953... Quigley expertly analyzes the legal drama of the court case, which was not without complication or difficulty. The author also smartly references the dissent and turmoil of the Supreme Court at the time, which had to deal with cases like *Isserman* and the trial of the Rosenbergs, to explore how the court unanimously voted in favor of Terrell, a clear signal that the age of segregation was unequivocally over. Quigley's narrative of Terrell and her court case is especially relevant in the wake of numerous well-publicized killings of black citizens by police officers and the latest wave of black activism." --Kirkus s "This work places Terrell's long and active life in context by providing an important history of the struggle against

segregation in Washington, D.C., and demonstrating that the legal victories of the 1950s were the result of decades of active resistance. For readers interested in the civil rights movement and in the history of Washington, D.C." Library Journal

Joan Quigley's *Just Another Southern Town* isn't 'just another' biography. In gripping detail, it traces the inspiring story of Mary Church Terrell, whose crusade for civil rights in the nation's capital took her all the way to the Supreme Court in a life that spanned Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and the landmark school desegregation case, *Brown v. Board of Education*. *Just Another Southern Town* is a powerful reminder of the difference anyone, especially an elderly black woman, can make in the life of a people and its laws." -Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Alphonse Fletcher University Professor, Harvard University

"During most of Mary Church Terrell's ninety-one years, Washington D.C. was indeed just another Southern town where she could not eat in restaurants that catered to whites or sit wherever she chose in movie theaters. This incisive biography of Terrell and her victorious quest for dignity and equality of treatment fills an important place in the history of the civil rights movement." -James M. McPherson, George Henry Davis '86 Professor Emeritus of United States History, Princeton University

"The story of Mary Church Terrell is as inspiring as it is vital in understanding the demise of legal segregation. Joan Quigley has done a remarkable job chronicling Terrell's impassioned fight for equal rights in the years before *Brown v. Board of Education*, and *Just Another Southern Town* is an important addition to civil rights literature." -Gilbert King, author of the Pulitzer prize-winning *Devil in the Grove*

"The headline 'Eat Anywhere' seems so simple. But without the determination and diligence of people like Mary Church Terrell, it would be only a wistful dream for African-Americans in this country. Joan Quigley illuminates the story of Terrell with exquisite research, rich context and heartfelt care." -Robin Givhan, author of *The Battle of Versailles: The Night American Fashion Stumbled into the Spotlight and Made History*

"By focusing on an unjustly neglected case and a highly intelligent protagonist who knew all the key actors and left a detailed diary, Joan Quigley makes the early years of the modern civil rights movement come alive. She has a rare gift for making us care about the hopes, frailties, and disappointments of specific individuals by setting them in an illuminating, sure-handed account of large political forces and legal ideas." -Vincent Blasi, Corliss Lamont Professor of Civil Liberties, Columbia Law School

"Quigley's greatest and most fascinating contribution is the reconstruction of Terrell's reflections, friendships, family life, and relationship with her husband Judge Robert Terrell through heretofore un-accessed diaries and correspondence." - *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, Volume 47, Number 3, Winter 2017.

About the Author Joan Quigley is a lawyer and journalist who lives outside of Washington, D.C. She is the author of *The Day the Earth Caved In: An American Mining Tragedy*.