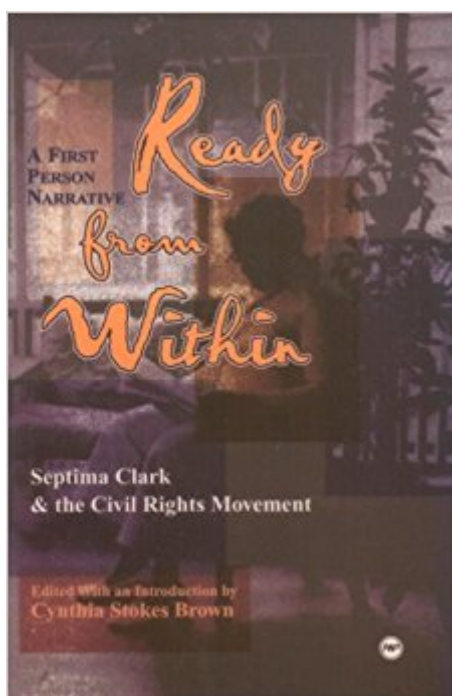


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Ready From Within: Septima Clark & The Civil Rights Movement, A First Person Narrative



Synopsis

Book by Septima Poinsette Clark

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Septima Clark played one of the most essential, but little recognized roles in the Civil Rights Movement. Born in 1898 in Charleston, South Carolina, she was a public school teacher until 1956, when she was dismissed for refusing to disavow her membership in the National Association for the advancement of Colored People. Subsequently, she worked for the Highlander Folk School, helping to set up Citizenship Schools throughout the South where Black adults could learn to read and prepare to vote. During the 1960s she worked with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and was a close associate of Martin Luther King, jr. from 1978 to 1983 she served as the first Black woman on the Charleston School Board. This is a first-person narrative of her life in the context of the Civil Rights Movement. Her story continues a major thread in the tapestry of the movement.

Cynthia Stokes Brown is professor of Education at Dominican College in San Rafael, California.

Really honest book from a point of view that is often overlooked in the civil rights movement. Absolutely wonderful, eye-opening, informative, inspirational, & quick read. A must-read for all seeking to learn more about the civil rights movement.

Informative and compelling details of The Highlander Folk School legacy. Deeper insight into the role that women played in the civil rights movement. Story of a quiet, and powerful, behind the scenes woman. Muryah

Absolutely wonderful. Learned a lot. Magnificent read.

brought book for college class on leadership and women of color. It was a good read and very interesting perspective on civil rights era

One of the most important books of our time.

In fact, she is one of the great leaders of all time. This is clear instantly to anyone who reads her story, told calmly and clearly, absent any self-aggrandizement or ego. Her role was that of countless women organizers such as Rosa Parks in Birmingham and Fannie Lou Hamer in Mississippi, almost the only female leaders' names we have from that Movement, and the barely-known student leader Anne Moody (whose moving autobiography, "Coming of Age in Mississippi" is another powerful document of that time) who actually risked their lives every day to do the monumentally hard, thankless, daily organizing work that persuaded Black people one by one throughout the South to risk their livelihoods, their housing and credit for basic food supplies at the local white landowner's grocery store, and their very lives, to come to a meeting, or register to vote, or take any first step to be involved in overthrowing America's apartheid regime, known as "Jim Crow" in areas where to join the NAACP meant being lynched. She matter-of-factly shows it to be a role largely unrewarded, unnoticed by the mass media, and never credited at all. Moreover, she had to fight every day, every week, every month, not to be thrown out of regular SCLC meetings by Dr. Ralph Abernathy, who resented her leadership status apparently for no other reason than that she was a woman, and enormously effective. Dr. King, in defending her place at the meeting, clearly knew he would have no crowds to march in front of at all were it not for women like Septima Clark.

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