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Ladies First: Revelations Of A Strong Woman



Synopsis

Queen Latifah is a sensation. At nineteen, she was the first female solo rapper to have a major record deal. Four years later she had become a top television actress and movie star. She earned a Grammy, started a record label, and became the president of her own company. Today she is rap music's most enduring female force. But how did Dana Owens, a young girl from Newark, New Jersey, become Queen Latifah and make it to the top of the charts? The most powerful voice in rap has always been quiet about her life. Until now. At once autobiographical and inspirational, *Ladies First* is the story of a young woman, making tough decisions and terrible mistakes -- about sex and drugs and about who was real and who wasn't -- before she was old enough to drive. It is about the reign of depression that descended on her after her brother's tragic death and how she found a sustaining love in God when it seemed the world was trying to break her. *Ladies First* is about being confident and sensual in a big, strong body and about blocking out the junk to let in the good. It is about how anyone -- whether from the poorest means or the richest -- can hold her head high in a world full of attitude. In a queen's universe, each experience is a lesson. Keeping it real and making no excuses, Queen Latifah shares her truth about what's important in life. Full of wisdom and revelations, *Ladies First* will instill in you the same self-esteem, respect, and courage that brought Queen Latifah peace and her independent edge. Allow her to guide you to discover who you are -- inside and out -- as you discover who she is. *Ladies First* is one woman's journey to find the riches that were in her life all along, and it is a message of majesty for everyone. With *Ladies First*, the queen who lives within all of us will rise.

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Customer Reviews

"I am not a psychologist or a sociologist," Queen Latifah points out. "I don't have any degrees, and I'm not an expert on life. What I am is a young black woman from the inner city who is making it, despite the odds, despite the obstacles I've had to face in the lifetimes that have come my way." In *Ladies First*, she talks about the importance of women making the move to be strong and self-reliant, using her own rise to stardom as a rapper and actress as an example. The drive and ambition have been with her since childhood: when she was very young and boys would ridicule her for wanting to play basketball with them, she retorted, "I'm not a tomboy--I'm just an athlete." Later, as a teenager, she would sneak out at night and go with friends to New York City to explore the emerging hip-hop scene, eventually cutting her first single in 1987. She talks about the choices she's made about drugs and sex and how she's learned as much from her mistakes as from her successes. And she addresses, glancingly, the rumors about her sexuality that have dogged her for years, and why she'd rather just ignore them: "I want people to see me as someone who is proud and comfortable with who I am.... Be secure in yourself. You don't need me--or any other public person, for that matter--to validate you." That basic principle, applied to all aspects of life, is the core of *Ladies First*. --Ron Hogan

Queen Latifah is perhaps rap's most recognizable female artist, having parlayed a successful music career into several high-profile film and television roles. Part of her appeal stems from her relatively unique image, one that eschews spandex and innuendo for a tougher, earthier confidence. Less an autobiography than a motivational tract, this book attempts to impart the philosophy behind Latifah's image and, in so doing, "let every woman know that she, too... is royalty." She does this by basing the narrative loosely around some of the major events in her life: her parents' divorce, her experiences growing up in inner-city Newark, her initial forays into the rap scene and her brother's death in a motorcycle accident at the age of 24. Also included are Latifah's views on drug use, God, romance and sex. Her personal recollections, while frank and heartfelt, serve mainly as touchstones for aphoristic observations on self-esteem and faith; the text is peppered with assertions such as "It's harder to feel bad with your head held high" and "The key is not to rule others but to reign over yourself." While the goal here is inspiration rather than revelation, fans may feel cheated by what's left out. No insights are offered regarding Latifah's music career, creative process or her decision to move into acting; her star-making lead role on the television series *Living Single* is covered in half a

sentence. Ultimately, however, Latifah's positive "be yourself" attitude is infectious, and readers are bound to come away from this book wanting?at least a little bit?to be like Latifah. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I have been an admirer of Queen Latifah for many years (I'm 74). I especially admired her movie with LL COOL J, although in general since I admire them both it's fairly easy to enjoy them working together. I do not enjoy their form of "music

This has become one of my favorite books. Queen Latifah gives life wisdom with such a thoughtful approach. This is wonderful for all ages, but especially for teenage girls. With all of the negative messages put towards women, we need more books that can give strong, positive messages like this.

I bought this book in paperback a year ago and read it two months ago. I immediately wanted all of my female friends and grandchildren to read it, so I bought several paperback copies from . I had a desire to find out what was the beginning of "Queen". Many years ago I saw her in a store and she was open and friendly, "what's Up"? She was then who she is now, open and honest. I wished I had been able to read this book when I was young and making some of the mistakes the Queen addresses. Ladies, honor yourself and read this book, then pass it on. I kept the hard copy. I deserve it. I am a Queen!

It was written in on the inside of the front cover and inside the back cover but still a good find.

Not sure how much of this was "ghost-written," how much Latifah herself wrote, but I'm a big fan and hers is an interesting story. Photographs are not good quality and there could be more of them, particularly of some of the characters in her life. Nevertheless, an inspirational story and worth a read.

This book started off kind of slow to me because, as a fan of all of her work I've heard the story of the beginning of her career but towards the middle I was amazed how honest and open she was about personal situations that a lot of us have put ourselves in but would never admit to "out loud anyway". It just makes you feel you're not alone with certain issues but you can overcome them.

I love the message here that she promotes; sincerity, not going along with the crowd, loving your curves, respecting your sexuality. I found the book very engaging and I've been a fan of Queen Latifah ever since reading this.

This is a informative book on Queen Latifa's life. I would recommend this book to others interested in her biography.

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