The Color Complex:
The Politics of Skin Color in a New Millennium

REVIEWS

From Publishers Weekly

“Drawing on interviews, history and sociology, the authors—a black woman, a white woman and a black man—ably survey the highly charged issue of discrimination among blacks on the basis of skin color. Their focal points range from miscegenation in colonial America to the historical role of the light-skinned elite in black churches and universities to trends in the hiring of black actors and models. The issues are complex: multiracial people debate whether they should consider themselves black or white, and a case of alleged ‘color harassment’ has even reached the federal courts.”

More Reviews

“Presents a powerful argument, backed by historical fact and anecdotal evidence, that color prejudice remains a devastating divide within Black America.”
—The New York Times Book Review

“An exploration of tightly guarded beliefs regarding color and its relationship to status and self-worth . . . This thoughtful work pierces through denial and stereotypes and invites people to look into a mirror, see beyond color and probe the soul.”
—Atlanta Constitution

“A serious, scholarly work that tackles an extremely sensitive topic with compassion and objectivity.”
—Boston Phoenix

“A clever, disturbing, well-documented examination of the origins and effects . . . of black-on-black bias.”
—Chicago Tribune

“The Color Complex is a much needed and insightful examination of color prejudices which persist among African Americans. It illustrates how deeply white racism continues to intrude on the black psyche and behavior.”
—Alvin F. Poussaint, M.D., Harvard Medical School

“Should make it easier for artists, writers and thinkers who want to probe deeper, examine new truths, and most of all, heal the wounds.”
—Newsday

“The authors—a black woman, a white woman, and a black man—ably survey the highly charged issue of discrimination among blacks on the basis of skin color.”
—Publishers Weekly

“Long overdue . . . Far too much time has been spent worrying about what to call ourselves—Afro-America, black, African-Americans, people of color—and not enough time learning how to understand and reconcile the many parts and hues.”
—LA Weekly