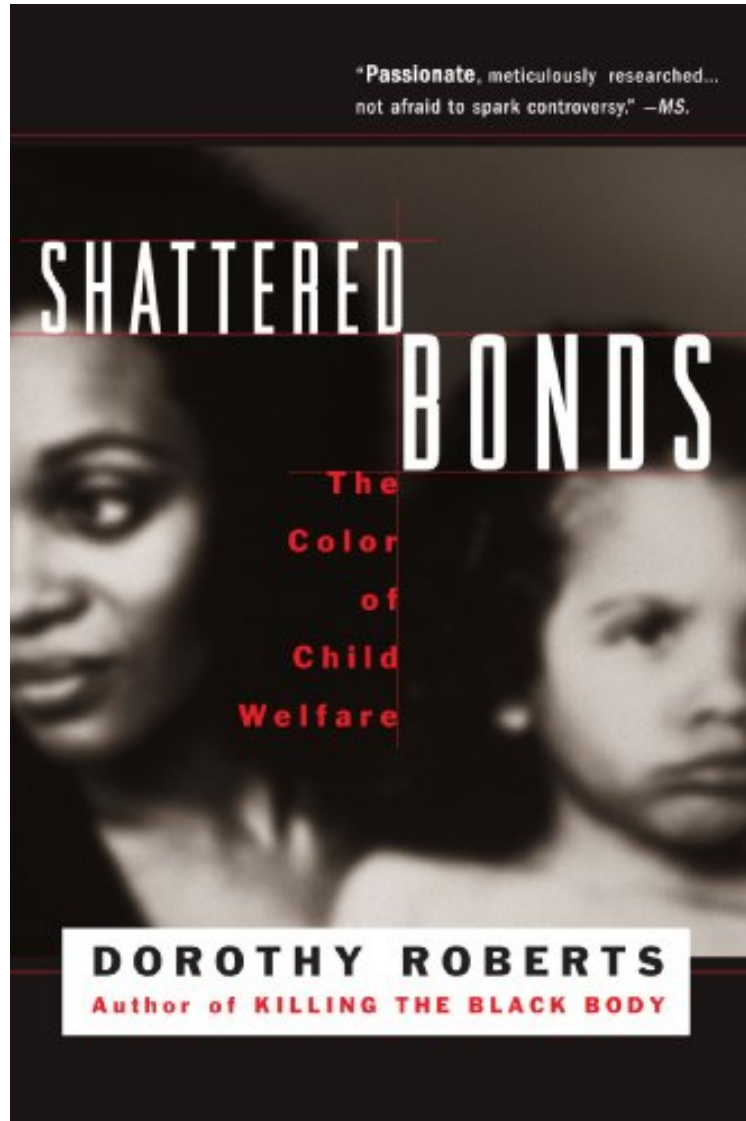


(Ebook free) Shattered Bonds: The Color Of Child Welfare

Shattered Bonds: The Color Of Child Welfare

Dorothy Roberts

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Dorothy Roberts : Shattered Bonds: The Color Of Child Welfare before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shattered Bonds: The Color Of Child Welfare:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I bought this for a class a few years ago ...By CustomerI bought this for a class a few years ago and I still refer to it when debating some idiot who insists that women are favored by the courts in custody battles. Striking and poignant, this book really opened my eyes to the plight of women without rights

to their children. It also put in perspective the role of hero/savior that we assign to single fathers with sole custody in our society. Sickening, but worth the read! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Highly RecommendBy Cheryl THighly recommend this book. It's a real eye opener not only for those working in social services but for every person who cares about children and the state of our child welfare system in this country. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An important and well researched book!By Trish T.Dorothy Roberts is an excellent writer, and I learned a great deal from reading this book. There is very little justice for too many Black and low income families in this country!

Shattered Bonds is a stirring account of a worsening American social crisis--the disproportionate representation of black children in the U.S. foster care system and its effects on black communities and the country as a whole. Tying the origins and impact of this disparity to racial injustice, Dorothy Roberts contends that child-welfare policy reflects a political choice to address startling rates of black child poverty by punishing parents instead of tackling poverty's societal roots. Using conversations with mothers battling the Chicago child-welfare system for custody of their children, along with national data, Roberts levels a powerful indictment of racial disparities in foster care and tells a moving story of the women and children who earn our respect in their fight to keep their families intact.

From Library Journal "It costs the federal government eleven times as much to provide foster care as to provide public aid to families," writes Northwestern law professor Roberts (*Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction and the Meaning of Liberty*). Even worse, she charges that child removal policies are biased, targeting blacks over other racial groups. Roberts has reached these conclusions through the careful research and scrutiny of court documents, foster-care records, and police reports. She also looks at social factors poverty, crime, and welfare provision among them and determines that lack of income, rather than parental inadequacy, is the major cause of child abuse and neglect. Unfortunately, instead of alleviating problems associated with substandard housing, poor nutrition, or lack of supervision, child welfare agencies take children and plo p them into middle-class, but not necessarily stable, households. While Roberts decries the destruction of low-income black families that this represents, her arguments about systemic racism are undermined by the fact that many foster care agencies are staffed by African Americans. A deeper look at how "racial profiling" is internalized by all sectors of society would make this a more credible text. Still, this work is recommended for all public and academic libraries as an enlightening study of a major social issue. Eleanor J. Bader, Brooklyn, NY Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Roberts, a law professor, offers a sharp, probing look at the alarming public policy that separates children from troubled low-income black families while making efforts to keep similarly troubled white families together. On the basis of 25 years of research on federal, state, and local welfare programs nationwide, Roberts reveals a system that fails to protect the interests of black children. The statistics are startling: black children make up half the foster-care population despite the fact that they constitute less than one-fifth of the nation's children. Roberts' case studies and interviews offer testimony to the human cost of racist assumptions by the middle-class social workers and judges in assessing what is best for children separated from their families. She recalls black parents whose every action is seen through the prism of race: assertion of rights is viewed as aggressiveness and lack of cooperation, whereas bureaucratic rules are strictly enforced, frustrating efforts to regain custody. Readers concerned with social policy will find this a troubling but informative review of America's child-welfare system. Vanessa Bush Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "A provocative argument stressing community over individual responsibility." -- Kirkus s "Passionate, meticulously researched...not afraid to spark controversy." -- Linda Villarosa, Ms. Magazine