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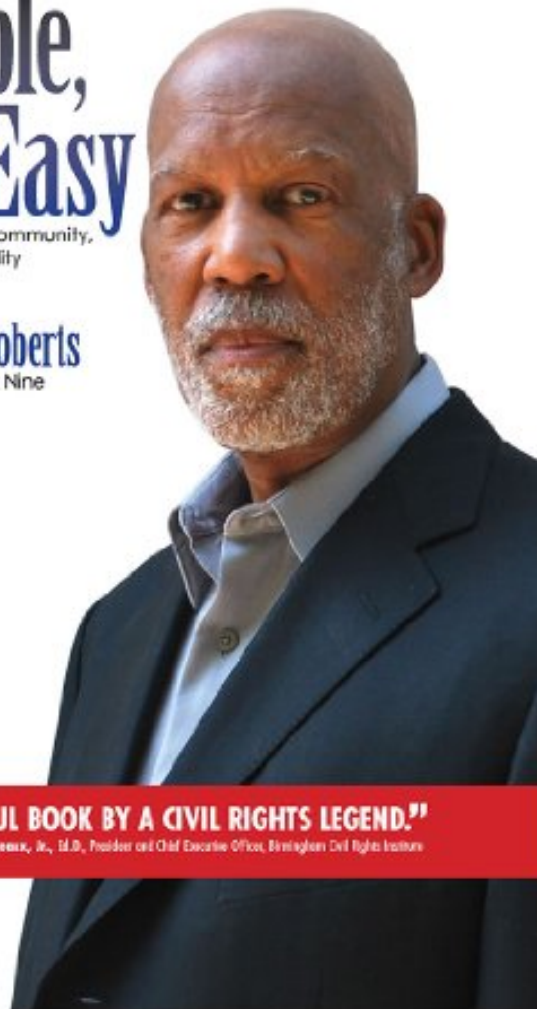
*Terrence J. Roberts Ph.D.*

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# Simple, Not Easy

Reflections on community,  
social responsibility  
and tolerance

**Terrence Roberts**  
of the Little Rock Nine



**"A POWERFUL BOOK BY A CIVIL RIGHTS LEGEND."**

— Lawrence J. Pigeaux, Jr., M.D., President and Chief Executive Officer, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute

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**Terrence J. Roberts Ph.D. : Simple Not Easy: Reflections on community social responsibility and tolerance (Our National Conversation)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Simple Not Easy: Reflections on community social responsibility and tolerance (Our National Conversation):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Thoughtful, Philosophical Book About Racism By Lee Edwards I have enjoyed and been challenged by this book which is primarily a collection of speeches which read as essays. Dr. Roberts has collected here a lifetime of wisdom about race and racism, social mores and subtle societal trends. By virtue of his own life experiences, Roberts is sensitive to the ways men and women dishonor their fellow human beings when they seek to dominate or exploit others by virtue of perceived or imagined differences of race. It is made abundantly clear that race is an historical construct by societies and not a biological reality, and that even now, in 2010, the United States has not yet arrived at some utopian post-racial or non-racial ideal. He stresses that human beings must be vigilant to create an equitable society where justice is upheld and all are given due respect while at the same time differences in human beings should be celebrated and enjoyed. Innocent children are not born racists but are taught racist ideology by their parents and peers. The challenge presented in this book is to grow in awareness throughout one's lifetime, in a quest to more fully understand the reality of who we are and how we relate to one another.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A fine addition to any memoir collection focusing on civil rights By Midwest Book Review Some things are easier said than done, but they must be done. "Simple, Not Easy: Reflections on the Community, Social Responsibility and Tolerance" is a memoir from Terrence Roberts as he reflects on his time as a member of the Little Rock Nine who dared attend a white school in the late 1950s, and how the years since then have proven unique. He tells his story and provides his opinions, giving readers a sound and moving read. "Simple, Not Easy" is a fine addition to any memoir collection focusing on civil rights.

HE MADE HISTORY. HE TELLS THE TRUTHS HE KNOWS. LEAD TITLE/Our National Conversation Series

From Publishers Weekly In his new collection of essays and speeches, psychologist and civil rights activist Roberts provides cultural perspective propelled by hope, strength, loss, and redemption. Roberts found fame at a young age, as one of the Little Rock Nine, a group of African American students who were the first to be integrated into a "whites only" school, an experience Roberts returns to often; the physical and mental harassment he endured, not only from peers, but from certain Little Rock adults, contains relevant lessons continually in need of unpacking. Including addresses at libraries, graduations, and Civil Rights conventions, Roberts' collection emphasizes personal responsibility—for one's highest values, as well as one's less noble biases—and connects with fatherly charm, a common-sense approach to justice and community, and a contagious belief in mankind's better nature. Vivid accounts from the days of segregation immerse readers in a divided world, but Roberts's charismatic voice and keen eye for topical developments keep his work fresh, focused, and inspirational.

END From Booklist Roberts was one of the Little Rock Nine, the group of African American teenagers who were the first to integrate Central High School in the Arkansas capital in 1957. Kept from entering the school by the Arkansas National Guard, the students were finally escorted into the building by U.S. Army soldiers deployed by President Eisenhower. Since that traumatic experience, Roberts went on to successful careers in education, as a professor of psychology, and business, as the CEO of a management-consulting firm. This volume brings together his collected speeches, many of which were given as commencement addresses or as part of Martin Luther King Day celebrations. The commencement-address style is typically fraught with high seriousness and a stentorian tone; fortunately, Roberts avoids both, discoursing on predictable topics—education, ethics, racism, community, and family—but doing so with humor and grace. Along the way, too, there is plenty of autobiography, not only about Little Rock but also about his life both before and after those history-changing days in 1957. The volume concludes, appropriately, with reflections on the election of President Obama. Thought-provoking and inspiring commentary. --Ilene Cooper

Simple, Not Easy: Reflections on Community, Social Responsibility and Tolerance Terrence Roberts Parkhurst Brothers It's perhaps too easy, in this day and age of omnipresent brain candy, to pass by a title like this one; it looks like work. The cover reminds that its author, Terrence Roberts, is one of the Little Rock Nine, nine courageous African-American students who volunteered to be the first to integrate Little Rock's Central High School in 1957 under the limited (in the sense that Army personnel did not enter the gym or the classroom) protection of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division, and who endured a year of daily hostility and abuse. Roberts went on to become a psychologist, educator, and speaker. The title, like Roberts' essays, states things directly. Its seriousness notwithstanding, Roberts' writing is the kind of writing that goes down easy; which introduces a curious, confident, and compassionate intelligence; and which enlivens the mind and spirit with the possibility of courage and clear sight. In this collection of twenty-nine short essays and speeches, Roberts covers a variety of topics: racism and other divisions; the importance of building community and relationships; cross-cultural issues; public figures, including letters to Senator and President-elect Barack Obama; the history of his experience at Central High School; and above all, the value of education and keeping one's mind open to learning and possibility. The topics themselves are interconnected, but they are further tied together here by Roberts' voice and world view. Roberts sets a conversational tone—indeed, he chafes a bit in the preface at the limitations that a book's format imposes on his true goal: building a thinking relationship with the reader—and his voice is clear, composed, and in his words, "dripping sweet reason" into the various social wounds and misapprehensions from which we suffer. He is not afraid to bust open a myth or two—the social constructs of race

and race prejudice and our national mythological narrative of meritocracy chief among them—and he does so in a way that invites reading and reflection. Inviting reading and reflection on beliefs which are strongly held, or for which one has suffered, is one of the most difficult tasks for a writer or an advocate; it is all too easy to slip into stridency or a faintly superior tone. But Roberts seems to have developed a near miraculous talent for truth-telling in an accessible voice. This is not, however, a writer who hesitates to say what he thinks, either in print or in person. In one passage, he