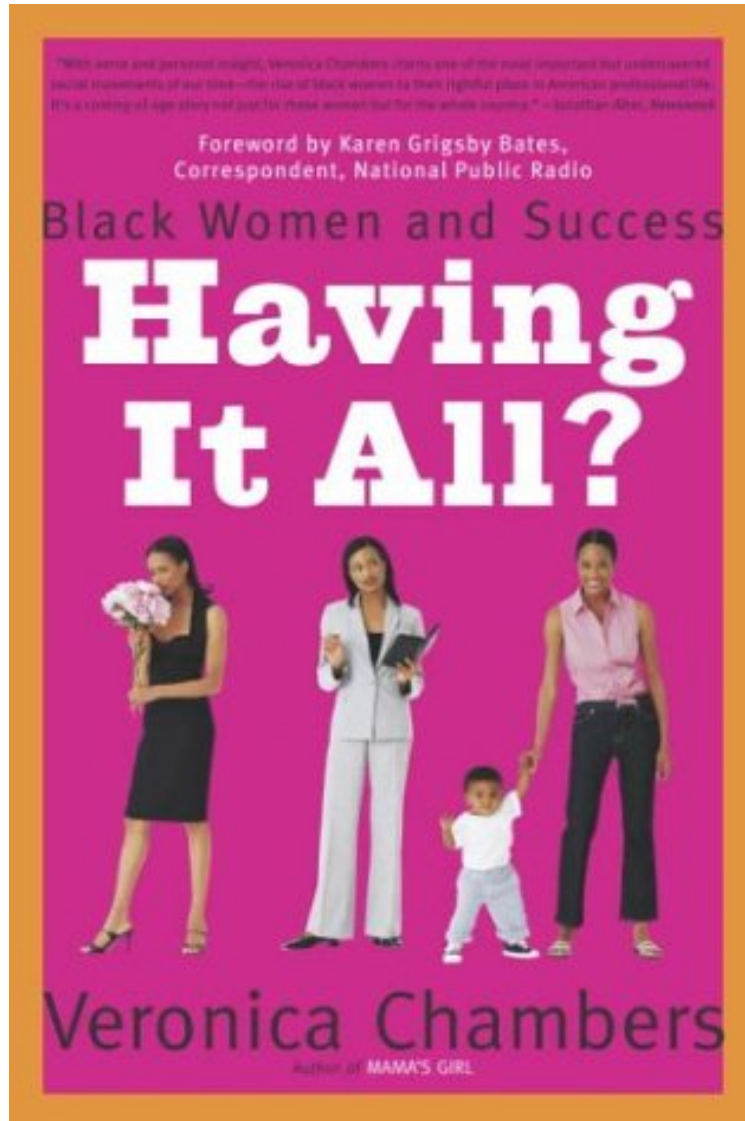


Having It All?: Black Women and Success

Veronica Chambers

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Veronica Chambers : Having It All?: Black Women and Success before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Having It All?: Black Women and Success:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Don't wait to read this book!By KharabellaI have never encountered a book that is more about ME as a black woman than HAVING IT ALL? by Veronica Chambers. I didn't read the book when it was published in 2003, and I really regret that now. This book is interesting and captivating from cover to cover. Granted, it isn't a book or guide to success as a black women. Rather, the book focuses on the fact that many black women are now and historically have been very successful in America, although we are rarely portrayed that way in American art, media, or history books. And despite the problems and challenges that we face along the way --

from unsupportive families, to office politics, to general racism -- black women continue to make significant, even if invisible, achievements, and to define "success" in our own terms. I am SO impressed by this book, and I was moved and inspired by the accounts of the black women that Chambers speaks of in this book. This book should be required reading for successful black women everywhere. It is so good to really see that we aren't alone and that we aren't the firsts. We are everywhere. 5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Chambers, Teachers ARE Successful, College-Educated Professionals! By Customer I have one peeve with this book: The author excludes teachers as successful, college-educated professionals (pg. 6 Introduction, hardcover)! Teachers, at the time she wrote this book and today, are required to earn a Bachelors degree, to receive specialized, professional training to be certified, AND they must obtain a Masters Degree within about 5 years after completing the training just to keep their jobs. With all of those educational requirements, how could Chambers say that teachers are not "college-educated professionals"? Then to make matters worse, Chambers says that she uses "success" in the "broadest terms" to include teachers. So teachers aren't successful in her eyes. According to her, a successful Black woman must be an attorney or a doctor or have earned an MBA or have earned a Bachelors degree from an Ivy League school. Even though I meet her standards for the successful Black woman, I can appreciate the ambition, brains and professionalism in my past teachers. Moreover, I have family members who are teachers, and they are just as ambitious, smart, and (dare I say) more humble than some of the women Chambers praises in this book. I hope she realizes that it took successful teachers to help those Black women she features in this book to get to where they are. And those teachers, as well as many others, are just as successful as any other degreed middle and upper-class professional she'd put on a pedestal. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I'm inspired I can have it all.. By Cinammon This book really put things into perspective for me. As a 25y/o college educated woman, reading this book gave me hope that I too can raise my family and continue to move up the corporate ladder.

A behind-the-scenes look into the lives of successful middle- and upper-middle class African American women, the groundbreaking *HAVING IT ALL?* is sure to spark discussions from cocktail parties to boardrooms. In a single generation, black women have made extraordinary strides academically, professionally, and financially. They've entered the workplace at a far greater rate than white women; increased their enrollment in law schools and graduate programs by 120 percent; and many are now running top companies, or in some cases, the country. Isn't that enough? Not necessarily. With sharp insight, award-winning journalist Veronica Chambers explores the challenges and stereotypes she and other African American women continue to endure, and answers the question most often posed to her: What does success mean for black women? Twenty-first century black women draw their inspiration from a wide range of sources: Claire Huxtable to Audrey Hepburn, snowboarding to basketball, Gloria Steinem to bell hooks. They choose what they like. Yet they are misunderstood by mainstream America and lack an accurate portrayal in the media of their lives. *HAVING IT ALL?* interweaves the thoughts and reflections of more than fifty women who occupy this territory. The voices range from Thelma Golden, chief curator of The Studio Museum in Harlem, to a Silicon Valley executive, to medical and legal professionals, and stay-at-home "mocha moms." Successful black women today want it all: marriage, motherhood, engaging work, and prosperity. The difference is that they come to the table with the strength, courage and wisdom of black women ancestors who did it all, even when they didn't have it all. What has gone so undocumented by the media is that modern black women are coming up with creative, satisfying answers to the juggling act that all women face. Veronica Chambers chronicles this topic for the first time in her absorbing, riveting and groundbreaking book *HAVING IT ALL?* From the Trade Paperback edition.

From Publishers Weekly In a series of interrelated essays, Chambers (*Mama's Girl*), explores the lives of middle- and upper-middle-class African-American women. Throughout, Chambers nicely weaves historical and literary anecdotes into her insightful narrative. While identifying this population as linchpins in the astronomical rise of a black middle class, she pursues such questions as how their "creative and indomitable spirit" translated into corporate reality while black men languish; why they no longer feel the need to choose allegiance between race and gender; what the image of Aunt Jemima declares about today's affluent African-American woman; and why they are more likely to be alone than any group of black women before them. Nonetheless, these women, Chambers says, have a strong sense of community and a renewed feeling of empowerment, which enables their transition into a predominantly white mainstream culture. Largely based on interviews of black women defying conventional perceptions, and written for those "who have crafted successful lives without role models or media coverage," the book lends a panoramic effect to such figures as former Whitney curator Thelma Golden, television host Star Jones, Barbara Bush's former press secretary Anna Perez, Anita Hill, and the growing population of African-American stay-at-home moms. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Yes, agrees journalist Chambers (*Mama's Girl*) as she peers into the lives of successful middle- and upper-middle-class African American women, these go-getters have progressed academically, professionally, and financially. But they still have to deal with being stereotyped in the media. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Chambers offers history, statistics, analyses, and interviews with successful

black women in pondering the post-civil rights inheritance of broadened opportunities and personal expectations. Despite the image of Clair Huxtable, the television wife and lawyer of *The Cosby Show*, and the real-life success of Oprah Winfrey, black women remain virtually invisible or are mistaken for the help in department stores and corporate offices. But the subjects whom Chambers has gathered for this fascinating book evoke drive and ambition as well as a level of comfort and acceptance that evaded or was denied to earlier generations. Chambers talked to a broad range of successful women--first-generation college graduates as well as those who come from longtime well-educated and wealthy families, ranging in age from 30 to 50, some childless, some professional--for a portrait of women with their own ideas of success. Chambers explores the reasons black women have had greater success than black men, the notion that affirmative action efforts benefit black women because they represent two minority groups, and other issues. An inspirational book. Vanessa Bush Copyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved