



## TEEN'S BOOK CLUB GUIDE

# CARVED IN EBONY

By Jasmine L. Holmes



“As we endure difficult things, God himself is at work, moving the pieces together for his glory and our good.” – Jasmine L. Holmes

### GENRE

Biography

History

### THEMES

Chattel Slavery

Faithfulness

Endurance

History

Womanhood

**Chattel slavery:** a form of slavery whereby one person has total ownership of another. This is the most common form of slavery known to Americans, and this system allowed people to be bought, sold and owned forever.

## 10 BLACK WOMEN OF FAITH

### Elizabeth Freeman

Midwife and motherhood advocate, freed from slavery by holding her enslaver accountable to the Declaration of Independence.

### Sara Griffith Stanley

Founder of the Stanley School dedicated to educating freed Black children in North Carolina, teacher and public speaker.

## *Nannie Helen Burroughs*

Cultural commentator and preacher to White and Black communities.

## *Frances Ellen Watkins Harper*

School teacher, lecturer, artist and poet.

## *Amanda Berry Smith*

Political activist and evangelist.

## *Maria Fearing*

Missionary to the Congo and mentor to girls at Pantops Home.

## *Maria Stewart*

Speechmaker and Jeremiad.

## *Lucy Craft Laney*

Founder of the Haines Normal and Industrial Institute. She was dedicated to teaching vocational and liberal arts education to Black men and women.

## *Charlotte Forten Grimke*

Raised in an abolitionist family, classically homeschooled, a poet and writer, missionary to Sea Islands.

## *Sarah Mapps Douglass*

Writer for 'The Liberator' and accountability advocate for the church.

## **BOOK SUMMARY**

Jasmine Holmes shares stories about the lives of 10 inspirational Black women. While many of the women featured in this book may be unknown to us and forgotten from our history texts, these women lived faithfully and influentially during a time filled with injustice.

“They worked to change laws, built schools, spoke to thousands, and shared the Gospel all around the world”.

This biographical novel is about truth-telling, women who had hope amongst oppression, and a call to learn from extraordinarily faithful Black women who have gone before us.

# 1 QUESTION ONE

'Carved in Ebony' is a much-needed biographical contribution to help us remember the Black women who faithfully served God through brave, bold and lasting kingdom deeds. Which woman's life touched your heart the most? Why?

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# 2 QUESTION TWO

What was the most shocking part of the book for you? Why do you think this was?

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# 3 QUESTION THREE

We are all made in the image of God. Why is this important? What happens when people no longer believe God created all people equal and with His likeness?

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## 4 QUESTION FOUR

In the Introduction, Jasmine poses the question, "Is it unpatriotic to shine a light on America's unfaithfulness to God's word?" (p15). How did reading this book help you understand the importance of remembering the past accurately?

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## 5 QUESTION FIVE

"If you're going to be a Christian, you've got to do something weekdays as well as talk and feel about it on Sundays" (quote from Nannie Helen Burroughs, p60). Why is it so important to live out our faith?

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## 6 QUESTION SIX

"Amanda described sanctification as God's 'enduring grace' and prayed that her sufferings would help to sanctify her" (p89). What lessons can we learn from her perspective on suffering and hardship?

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## 7 QUESTION SEVEN

Lucy Craft Laney dedicated her life to forming schools that provide Black Americans with both a liberal arts education and vocational education in a time when it was common to offer one or the other. Why was it important to offer both?

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## 8 QUESTION EIGHT

In Appendix 1, Jasmine shares a brief summary of 'The Founding Fathers and Slavery'. Although many of these men abhorred slavery, they still owned slaves. Discuss this paradox.

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## 9 QUESTION NINE

Jasmine says, "We are not called to supernatural strength in any way, shape, form or fashion. We are merely called to a supernatural faith that he is all too ready to supply us" (p93). What do you need God to supply you with today?

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