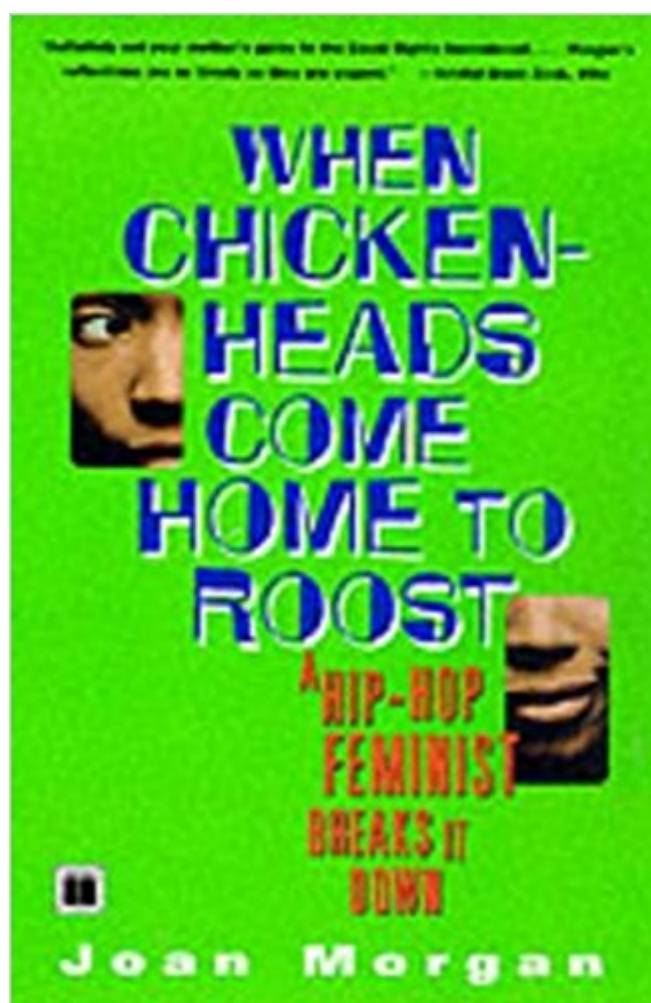


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# When Chickenheads Come Home To Roost: A Hip-Hop Feminist Breaks It Down



## Synopsis

“Morgan has given an entire generation of black feminists space and language to center their pleasures alongside their politics.” • Janet Mock, New York Times bestselling author of *Redefining Realness* “All that and then some, *Chickenheads* informs and educates, confronts and charms, raises the bar high by getting down low, and, to steal my favorite Joan Morgan phrase, bounced me out of the room.” • Marlon James, Man Booker Prize-winning author of *A Brief History of Seven Killings* Still fresh, funny, and irreverent after eighteen years, *When Chickenheads Come Home to Roost* gives voice to the most intimate thoughts of the post-Civil Rights, post-feminist, post-soul generation. Joan Morgan offers a provocative and powerful look into the life of the modern black woman: a complex world in which feminists often have not-so-clandestine affairs with the most sexist of men, where women who treasure their independence frequently prefer men who pick up the tab, where the deluge of baby mothers and baby fathers reminds black women who long for marriage that traditional nuclear families are a reality for less than forty percent of the population, and where black women are forced to make sense of a world where truth is no longer black and white but subtle, intriguing shades of gray.

## Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster; 1st Touchstone Ed edition (February 2, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 068486861X

ISBN-13: 978-0684868615

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 13 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 36 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #63,149 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #170 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Women's Studies > Feminist Theory](#) #337 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Pop Culture > General](#) #431 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > African-American Studies](#)

## Customer Reviews

“Master storyteller Joan Morgan navigates the torrid waters of gender, race, and power with grace, humor, and, most of all, love.” • Daniel José Older, New York Times

bestselling author of the Shadowshaper series — “Joan Morgan stripped feminism of its basic Black and Whiteness — redressed it in her own beautiful, badass, complicated, challenging, shades-of-gray couture criticism. Before it was popular to be — as an unapologetic, magic, hood-loving, imperfect, sexy-ass, Black feminist, Joan put it down in Chickenheads, validating a whole generation of fierce young women, just waiting for that brave bitch to fire the shot, so we all could just go. — Michaela Angela Davis, CNN and BET correspondent — “Without doubt, Black Women had made meaningful interventions into Feminist Thought before the publication of When Chickenheads Come Home to Roost, but none can claim to have done so wearing three-inch pumps, while bumping Heavy D, and sprinkling enough #BlackGirlMagic to conjure a new generation of Black Feminists who give no — to those who dare deny the value of a Black Girl’s life and her desires. — Mark Anthony Neal, author of Looking for Leroy — “In When Chickheads Come to Roost, Joan Morgan began dismantling the one-dimensional — strong Black women — myth. The unapologetic realness in her essays, even today, are a beacon for young women on the journey of accepting — and celebrating — the beautiful complexities of womanhood. — Cori Murray, entertainment director at Essence — “The debt that a generation of writers, thinkers, and activists owe to Joan Morgan is incalculable. Joan gave us permission to — fuck with the grays — and provided the blueprint for an analysis of culture that yields more vibrant and nuanced takes on our humanity. For me, as a man who wants to be challenged to unpack the failures of black men to show up and fight for sisters, the beauty in Joan’s words is that she didn’t stop at their trauma, but allowed us into the world of bountiful, beautiful blackness that black women have lived by. Chickenheads changed the game. — Mychal Denzel Smith, New York Times bestselling author of Invisible Man, Got the Whole World Watching — “Definitely not your mother’s guide to the Equal Rights Amendment.... Morgan’s reflections are as timely as they are cogent. — Kristal Brent Zook, Vibe — “Morgan tussles with the perceived contradictions of being black, female, fly, and feminist — from the myth of the strongblackwoman to chickenhead envy... a fresh alternative to accepted notions about black womanhood. — Lori L. Tharps, Ms. — “It’s a bold, cheeky, self-affirming read, and for a black woman in this society, there’s hardly enough affirmation. — Martine Bury, Jane — “When Chickenheads Come Home to Roost... is gaining nationwide acclaim for adding a fresh, idiosyncratic point of view — the voice of a new generation — to the oft-debated saga. Painstakingly straddling the line which

separates street smarts from book intelligence, Morgan offers 240 pages worth of commentary on what it is like for a Black woman to come of age, Gen-X style.... While most Gen-Xers claim to be "keepin' it real," Morgan's new book instead shows that she's making the conscious choice to "keep it right." And not only by flipping and bouncing words and phrases that reflect today's popular culture, this new age feminist shows and proves that the day in which James Brown screams "it's a man's world" might be finally coming to a dawn.

• Michael J. Rochon, Philadelphia Tribune "A debut collection of impassioned essays, written in poetic, flowing prose.... Fresh and articulate. Steadily perceptive, shrewdly provocative."

• Kirkus Reviews "[Morgan] brings a powerful voice to concerns of modern black women."

• Vanessa Bush, Booklist "As is the case with a lot of Morgan's work, *Chickenheads* remains unafraid to go there around a few touchy issues.... [The book] will definitely engender passionate discussions among readers.... Regardless of how interpreted, you gotta give it up to this yardie gyal from the Bronx who's brave enough to put her ideas out there so that the rest of us home-grrrls can all together start climbing toward wholeness."

• Honey "Whether one agrees with Morgan or not, the sister definitely makes you think."

• Ronda Racha Penrice, Rap Pages "A journalist by trade and outspoken black feminist by inclination, Joan Morgan has style to burn.... When Morgan brings it, she's funny, fierce, and yes feminist.... Morgan insists that the hip-hop generation can set its own goals—emotional, spiritual, social and political. Time to move on, and Morgan's leading the way."

• Cindy Fuchs, Philadelphia City Paper "It's refreshing to see Morgan add racial dynamics to the gender-politics Debate.... This book is a postmodern *Waiting to Exhale*—a romantic melodrama for all the black women who are beautiful, smart, accomplished and not apologizing for any man who can't get his act together.... Morgan is a credible independent spirit and autonomous woman."

• Caille Millner, San Jose Mercury News "Joan Morgan has undertaken the necessary and painstaking task of navigating the world of Black Male/Female relationships. You go Joan! I saw myself in this book. Thank you for making me stop and think and reciprocate love."

• Ananda Lewis "Everything you want to know about the sisters—and then some."

• Sean "Puffy" Combs "Joan Morgan writes with passion, pain, and a charming playfulness about the fun and games of African-American life in the nineties."

• Nelson George, author of *Hip Hop America* "Strong, soft, wise, and right on the beat with much flava to savor."

Ã¢â¬â Fab 5 Freddy

A pioneering hip-hop journalist and award-winning feminist author, Joan Morgan coined the term Ã¢â¬âhip-hop feminismÃ¢â¬â in 1999 with the publication of *When Chickenheads Come Home to Roost*, which is now used at colleges across the country. Morgan has taught at Duke University, Stanford University, and The New School.

It was okay.

The language is rough at times, but the eloquence with which Morgan presents her musings, is pure. It's about time we hear the opinion of an honest voice from the current Hip-Hop culture, concerning gender relations, family and being a feminist. I am NOT in agreement personally on some of Morgan's beliefs, but can respect the presentation of her perspective. She brings to light some very difficult questions, and opens some doors that have been largely untouched. This book has nothing to do with Hip-Hop as an art form or media of expression, other than from the cultural perspective of being a young-ish American from the urban and largely "ethnic" culture. She is a beautiful black woman who is representing herself and her generation with honor and respect.

This book is a must for any 'older schooled' hip hop female heads worldwide. Morgan has a wonderful street/hip hop rhetoric that speaks to women who have a love for this thing called hip hop and life. Ladies pay attention to her words! She is rough, rugged raw and honest. Mama's, try this book out on your daughters, you may need to read it with them or break Morgans pearls of wisdom down for them as their heads bob in and out of the book either agreeing, disagreeing or shooting looks of confusion. She hits the chicken head directly on the head, there is a little bit of chicken head in every women, depending on how you define chicken head and your own personal beliefs pertaining to the f word.

I like this book in that the author, Joan Morgan, does not try to act like her book has all the answers for everything. Instead, she just tries to offer her view and let you take what you can from it. First she explores how feminism has traditionally been interpreted in Black culture, and how this limiting definition has evolved in the 21st century, especially as it relates to being a part of the hip-hop culture. She also explores how history has influenced the current relations between black men and women, and their evolution into the strongblackwoman and endangeredblackman stereotypes. Joan

also talks about the animosity between "chickenheads" and strongblackwomen, and encourages women to really be themselves. I especially like how Joan explores the relationship between black women and their fathers. She provides a unique insight and solution for this dilemma. This book is a timely message for "strong" black women who are looking for a way to absolve their independence with their innate feminism.

Amazing. Literally relevant in 2015 and clearly speaking to all black women no matter where they sit on the spectrum. I just wish I could get this electronically!

## GREAT READ

I recently went to a hip-hop symposium where Joan Morgan and a few other activists were speaking. When I first heard the title, I was a little turned off, but after hearing her speak about her experiences and how they've shaped her perspective...I decided to purchase it. And I'm so glad I did!!! This book is excellent!! Additionally, she annotates so many other wonderful pieces written about hip-hop, gender relations, feminism, misogyny, etc you almost want to buy the book to guide your future reading on the subject.

Excellent read! I recommend this book for every woman of color.

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