

Popular accounts of the suffrage crusade often begin in Seneca Falls in 1848 and end with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920. But this overwhelmingly white women's movement did not win the vote for most Black women. To secure their rights, Black women needed a movement of their own.

In *Vanguard*, prizewinning historian Martha S. Jones offers a new history of African American women's political lives in America. She recounts how they defied both racism and sexism to fight for the ballot, and how they wielded political power to secure the equality and dignity of all persons. From the earliest days of the republic to the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and beyond, Jones excavates the lives and work of Black women who were the vanguard of women's rights: the pioneering lecturer Maria Stewart, abolitionist and suffrage advocate Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, community organizer Fannie Lou Hamer, and many more. She shows how these women again and again called on America to realize its best ideals as they set the pace in the quest for justice and collective liberation.

In the twenty-first century, Black women's power at the polls and in our politics is undeniable. *Vanguard* reveals that this power is not at all new. It is the culmination of two centuries of dramatic struggle that transformed America for the better.

MARTHA S. JONES is the Society of Black Alumni Presidential Professor and professor of history at Johns Hopkins University, and the prizewinning author of *Birthright Citizens* and *All Bound up Together* and an editor of *Toward an Intellectual History of Black Women*. She is president of the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, the oldest and largest association of women historians in the United States. She lives in Baltimore, MD.

READ BY MELA LEE



Running Time: Approx. 11 Hours • Unabridged

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VANGUARD

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WON THE VOTE.
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ON EQUALITY
FOR ALL

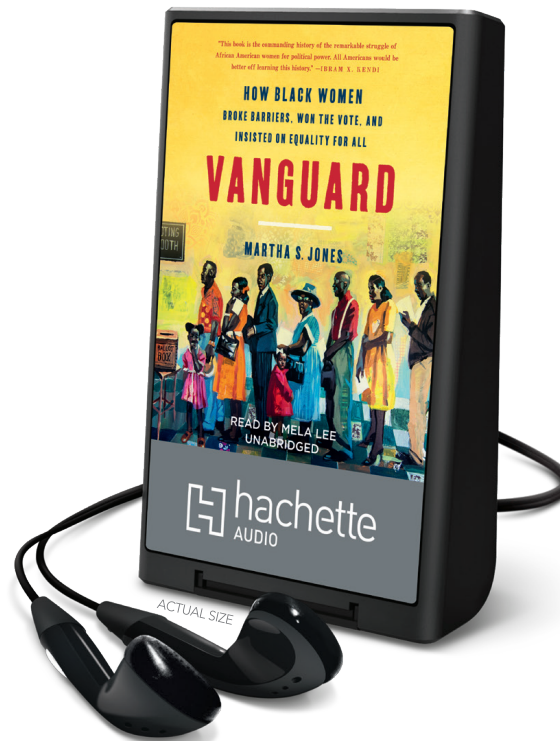
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