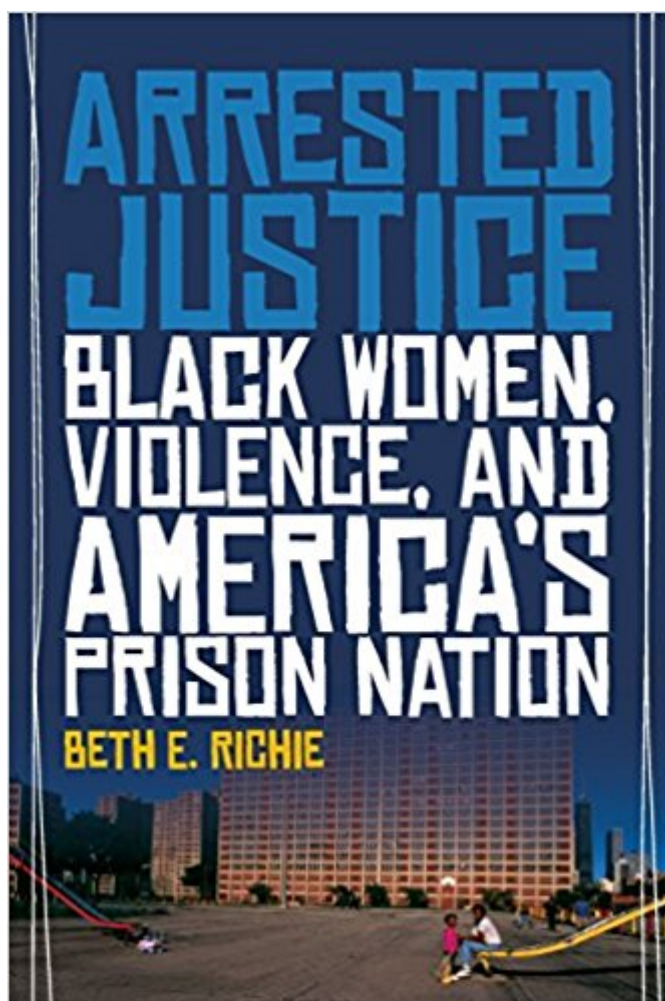


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# Arrested Justice: Black Women, Violence, And America's Prison Nation



## Synopsis

Black women in marginalized communities are uniquely at risk of battering, rape, sexual harassment, stalking and incest. Through the compelling stories of Black women who have been most affected by racism, persistent poverty, class inequality, limited access to support resources or institutions, Beth E. Richie shows that the threat of violence to Black women has never been more serious, demonstrating how conservative legal, social, political and economic policies have impacted activism in the US-based movement to end violence against women. Richie argues that Black women face particular peril because of the ways that race and culture have not figured centrally enough in the analysis of the causes and consequences of gender violence. As a result, the extent of physical, sexual and other forms of violence in the lives of Black women, the various forms it takes, and the contexts within which it occurs are minimized "at best" and frequently ignored. *Arrested Justice* brings issues of sexuality, class, age, and criminalization into focus right alongside of questions of public policy and gender violence, resulting in a compelling critique, a passionate re-framing of stories, and a call to action for change.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"No one writes with passion like Beth Richie to convey the degree of danger the most marginalized women in our country are in. If there is one book you read to understand better why poor Black women are in continual danger and several suggested ways of thinking about changing these conditions, then this is the book to read." -Natalie J. Sokoloff, editor of *The Criminal Justice System and Women* "Required reading for anyone interested in violence against women,

black feminist theory, mass incarceration, or the welfare state. Essential for all levels/libraries."-Choice"This book provokes outrage and affords insight."-American Studies"I hope all activists and scholarsâ "women of color and white women, young and oldâ "read this book and from it, learn how stacked the system is against women of color, especially poor women."-Women's Review of Books â œRichie expertly and chillingly documents the convergence of individual and structural racism, economic exploitation, and political disenfranchisement in the devastating gendered violence against the most disadvantaged Black women and girls.Â Arrested Justice represents the intersections of oppression at their most extreme. The book is frightening, enraging, and should be read by everyone.â •-Joanne Belknap,author of The Invisible Woman: Gender, Crime, and Justice"Her new book, Arrested Justice: Black Women, Violence, and America's Prison Nation, is a critical examination and re-examination of several of the issues Richie has been writing about and working on for many years: prisons, the criminal legal/justice system, and the particular vulnerabilities of women and African-American women in particular as they operate at the intersection of what Richie and many other scholars point to as a profoundly racist and misogynistic system."-Yasmin Nair,Windy City Times"By narrowing the scope of gender, violence, and crime more specifically to the U.S. case, she assesses both national and localized stories that reveal the fragility of black female lives in a nation driven by securing and maintaining prison profits...Even more profound, however, is the engagement Richie enforces with uncomfortable and long-avoided topics, including stalking, neighborhood assaults, incest, intimate partner abuse, rape, and even pervasive sexual harassment committed by the police in poor communities."-WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly"Beth E. Richie...uses her expertise to reveal the hidden experience of black women living in marginalized communities. With over 25 years of work as a black feminist scholar and anti-violence activist, Richie tackles the extremely complicated interplay of race, gender and class that is causing violence against black women."-Salon.comâ œA powerful and insightful call to action. Richie offers us a richly complex yet deeply usable analysis, rooted in a passionate commitment to producing knowledge that can change us and transform the world. Richie challenges us to ask ourselves what it would mean if we were to put the lives of the most stigmatized and the most violated at the center of our social justice work. The stories of injustice, survival and courage in these pages will stay with the reader long after turning the last page.â •Â -Julia C. Oparah,editor of Global Lockdown: Race, Gender and the Prison-Industrial Complexâ œAs a testament to the crumbling status of Black women in America, Richieâ™s book is a natural read for academic scholars in a variety of disciplines including Black studies, womenâ™s studies, sociology, and criminology.Â Furthermore, this book is useful for informing future policy and enlightening policy

makers as to the weight and consequences of their actions."-Journal of African American Studies

Beth E. Richie is Director of the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy, Professor of African American Studies and Criminology, Law, and Justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and author of *Compelled to Crime: The Gender Entrapment of Battered Black Women*.<sup>Â</sup>

After reading *The New Jim Crow*, a colleague recommended this as a next read. Both books undertake a critique of the prison system that diminishes our nation and disproportionately oppresses our Black sisters and brothers. *Arrested Justice* raises awareness of the unheard voices of Black women who suffer at the hands of their neighbors and those who are charged to serve and protect all citizens and residents of our cities and towns. Dr. Beth Richie eloquently dissects the complicated terrain of Black women's experiences of violence, the complicity of the prison nation, and problematizes looking at any one social descriptor in isolation (e.g. race, gender or economic status). She engages the issues, such as poverty, loyalty within the Black community, sexual orientation, and violence at the hands of family, community, and strangers, with depth and insight. In particular, the painful narratives that she shares will leave you disturbed but hungry for insight into how these realities can be diffused and dismantled.

This is serious s\*\*\* here people. Women are getting tortured and raped and especially women of color...they are victims of a prison-industrial complex that isn't out to serve anything or anybody except the white male phallocracy that remains in power even until now.

The book met all my needs. It was very prolific and revealing.

Great read. Staple resource for any feminist and especially womanist scholar.

**THIS IS A SERIOUS ISSUE AS THE BODIES OF BLACK WOMEN ARE SERVING AS THE NEW FODDER FOR THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX**

Richie's argument is composed largely of a few shocking cases, avoiding data and statistics throughout the book. This makes her thesis even less convincing and serves to bore the reader once the initial shock factor has worn off. In particular, she focuses on a handful of cases though the majority of the book which, while disturbing, provide very few actual details. It feels as though Richie

was very selective with which cases she used in her writing to lend legitimacy to her argument. She does, at the very least, bring up an interesting point, but it is also one that could be explored in a more objective manner. In Richie's novel, she successfully convinces the reader that she believes in her thesis, but I doubt it would convince many others to join her in her beliefs.

Did not complete the book yet but so far so good!!!

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