

AUTHOR | MEDICAL STUDENT | RHODES SCHOLAR

JASMINE BROWN

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ABOUT
JASMINE BROWN

Jasmine Brown began writing *TWICE AS HARD* when she was twenty-two. A 2018 recipient of the Rhodes Scholarship, she used her time at the University of Oxford to complete the in-depth research and oral histories synthesized in this book. In the spring of 2020, she graduated from Oxford with Merit, earning an M.Phil. in History of Science, Medicine, and Technology. That fall, she began medical school at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Brown leverages her connection to her topic to create a work that is both immensely well-researched and personal.

Brown has been involved in advocacy work for many years. While in college, at Washington University in St. Louis, she founded the Minority Association of Rising Scientists and served as its president, working to provide minority students with resources to get involved in research as well as a community to support them along the way. It was her childhood dream to help increase the number of underrepresented minorities in science and medicine. Through her debut book and outreach efforts, she plans to do just that.

TWICE AS HARD:

The Story of Black Women Who Fought to Become Physicians from the Civil War to the Twenty-First Century

In this moment of national reckoning about the American systems that have upheld racism and sexism, the medical community is by no means exempt. Of the esteemed American doctors who have made famous contributions to medicine, how many can you recall learning about who were black women? No complete history of black women physicians in the United States exists, and what little mention is made to these women in existing histories is often insubstantial or altogether incorrect.

Beginning with Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler, the first black woman to graduate from medical school just fourteen months after the Emancipation Proclamation,

TWICE AS HARD introduces readers to the lives and achievements of prominent black women physicians all the way up to the present, spotlighting Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey who, in 2003, became the first woman and first African American to lead the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and oversee its \$8 billion endowment. She was named one of the 100 Most Powerful Women by Forbes multiple times.

Not just constructing a history, Brown sets out to inspire future generations of black women who will pursue medicine, creating a new class of role models in the women whose histories she shares. As *TWICE AS HARD* shows, overcoming racism and sexism to become a doctor was a monumental feat in and of itself.

But beyond this, the physicians highlighted in *TWICE AS HARD* made significant contributions to medicine and healthcare, and this new work establishes a lineage of black women doctors whose accomplishments are undeniably important and inspirational. Now a medical student, Jasmine Brown is shedding light on the black women doctor role models she grew up without.

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