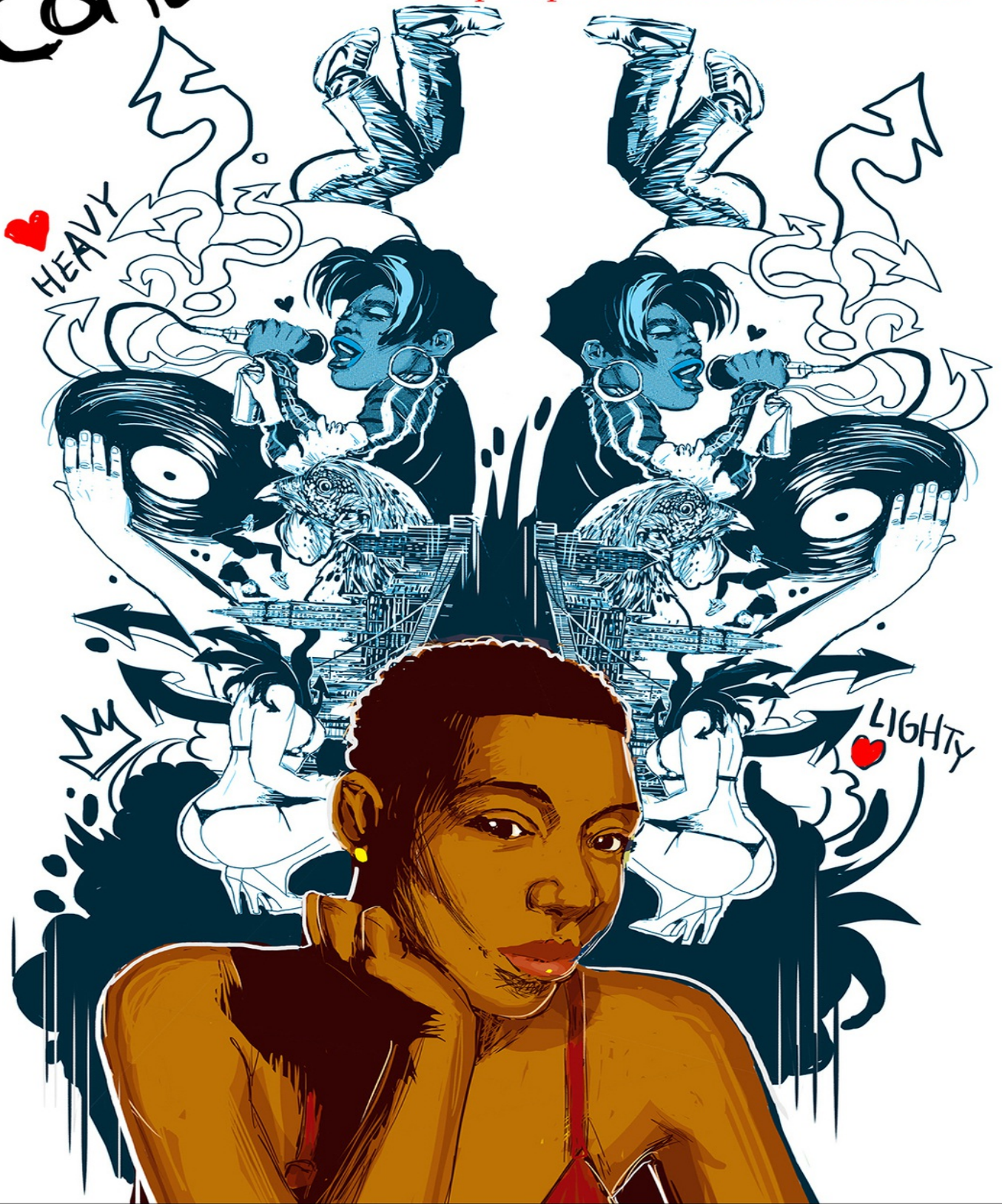


JOAN MORGAN

WHEN CHICKEN HEADS COME HOME TO ROOST

a hip hop feminist breaks it down



Praise for
When Chickenheads Come Home to Roost

“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 ‘f*cks’ to those who dare deny the value of a Black Girl’s life and her desires.”

—Mark Anthony Neal, author of *Looking for Leroy*

“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 ‘out’ 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

“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*

“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*

“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, television personality

“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.”

—Fab 5 Freddy

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when
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a hip-hop feminist breaks it down

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For my mother, Maud Morgan.
The wind beneath my wings.

acknowledgments

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Malcolm love, I thank you for making the light at the end of the tunnel shine brighter than ever before.

Finally my eternal gratitude to all of the sistas I interviewed for this book. Your courage and generosity fortifies and inspires me. I will never stop telling

our stories.