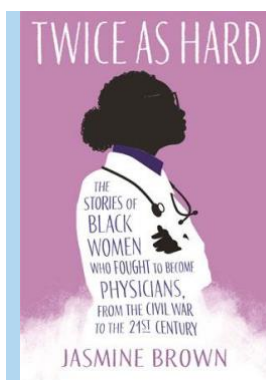


## Discussion Guide



*Twice As Hard: The Stories of Black Women Who Fought to Become Physicians, From the Civil War to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*  
Jasmine Brown

Beacon Press  
2023  
240 pages  
ISBN: 978-0807025086

Women in  
Medicine

### Summary

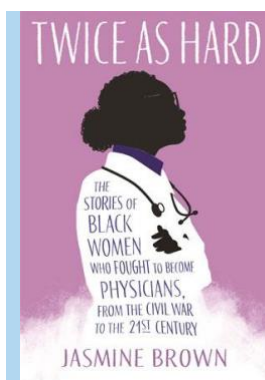
In this work of extensive research, Jasmine Brown offers a rich perspective, penning the long-erased stories of nine pioneering black women physicians beginning in 1860, when a black woman first entered medical school. Brown tells the stories of these doctors from the perspective of a black woman in medicine. Her journey as a medical student already has parallels to those of black women who entered medicine generations before her. What she uncovers about these women's struggles, their need to work twice as hard and be twice as good, and their ultimate success serves as instruction and inspiration for new generations considering a career in medicine or science.

### Questions

1. Why do you think the author chose the title of this book?
2. Why did the author write this book?
3. Did you feel any emotions while you read this?
4. Can you point to specific passages that struck you personally – as interesting, profound, validating or upsetting?
5. Did you learn something new reading this book? Did it broaden your perspective about a difficult societal issue?
6. What challenges do you think the author faced when researching the black women physicians in this book?
7. The author says that she never learned about black women physicians in her history classes. Do you think this is a common experience? Was that your experience growing up?
8. How can learning about these stories impact young people?
9. What was a major barrier that two or more women faced in this book? Does this barrier still exist in medicine?

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10. How did the intersectionality of their race and gender contribute to the challenges that they faced? How does that intersectionality impact black male and female physicians in the present day?
11. What helped two or more of these black women physicians succeed in medicine? Is this accessible to all aspiring minority physicians now?
12. How did the sociopolitical landscape affect the journeys of the physicians in this book? How does the current sociopolitical landscape affect minority physicians today?
13. Are there any trailblazing black women physicians, not included in the book, that you'd like to learn more about?
14. What do you think could be done now to make medicine more diverse and inclusive? How can you help?
15. Do you think medicine has advanced or regressed in terms of its openness and support of diversity within medicine? How has the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Affirmative Action affected this?
16. How does diversity in medicine help patients?
17. Does the author make a call to action to readers – individually or collectively? Is that call realistic? Idealistic? Achievable?
18. Are the book's issues controversial? How so? And who is aligned on which sides of the issues? Where do you fall in that line-up?
19. Have you read any similar books?

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