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Please enjoy this complimentary excerpt from *Teaching Beautiful Brilliant Black Girls* by Omobolade Delano-Oriaran, Marguerite W. Penick, Shemariah J. Arki, Ali Michael, Orinthia Swindell, and Eddie Moore Jr..

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Foreword

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Loving, affirming, respecting, centering, connecting, uplifting, and understanding Black girls is more than just a teaching approach or a “best practice” method for your teaching tool kit; it is a form of liberation for humanity to reach toward unconditional love and loving “blackness as an act of political resistance” (hooks, 1990, p. 20). When we love and affirm Black girls, we love and affirm all humanity. This freedom is not just for Black girls, but for educators to be fully human in the classroom. The Black feminists of the Combahee River Collective said it best: “If Black women were free, it would mean that everyone else would have to be free since our freedom would necessitate the destruction of all the systems of oppression” (1974). Black girls walking into schools filled with teachers who love them, who see them as brilliant learners, and who possess a wealth of knowledge that uplifts the school, the community, and society means freedom for everyone.

A teacher, especially a White woman teacher, who approaches life with the idea that Black girls are essential to her own life and freedom, will teach with a love for humanity that will liberate all students. This type of life practice requires a roadmap to reflect one’s own ideas, views, and actions to become a teacher committed to radical intersectional justice. *Teaching Brilliant and Beautiful Black Girls* is that roadmap.

When I was asked to write the foreword for this book, I did not hesitate, because I believe in this book as an educator who teaches future teachers, and as a Black feminist. The authors were asked by mothers, aunties, sisters, and teachers from various backgrounds in their respective communities to assemble a collection of work that spoke to the brilliance of their daughters—and they delivered.

White women make up over 80 percent of the teaching force, so the way in which white women understand and know Black girls is critical to the educational outcomes of Black girls. It is time we have an honest and loving conversation with

white women about the harm they have caused and how they can begin their journey toward redemption and using their privilege for the freedom of others. *Teaching Brilliant and Beautiful Black Girls* is broken down into three meaningful and thoughtful categories: understanding, respecting, and connecting. Each section is a daring invitation to unlearn what white supremacy tells us about Black girls and pedagogically act on the contemporary and herstorical contributions, legacies, herstories, and intersectional identities of Black girls. This book will deepen your understanding not only of the beauty and brilliance of Black girls, but also of how to build a classroom on creativity and joy through a Black feminist pedagogical lens.

There is so much thoughtful and loving information packed within the pages of this book—each chapter will push you and expand your thinking for action. It is a primer for teaching Black girl liberation. I hope that as you read this book, you reflect on why we need a book like this, why it was created, and what you will do to ensure that the premise of this book becomes a reality, not only in your classroom, but in your everyday life.

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