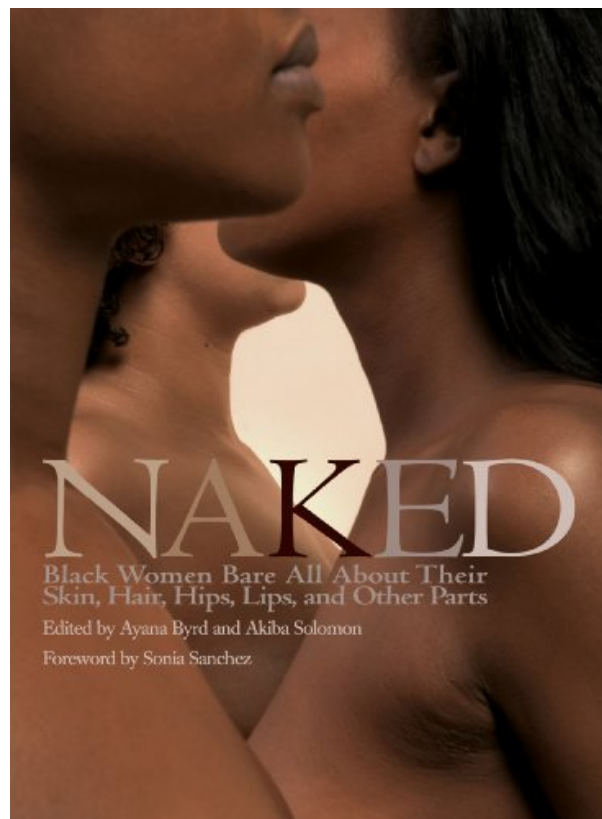
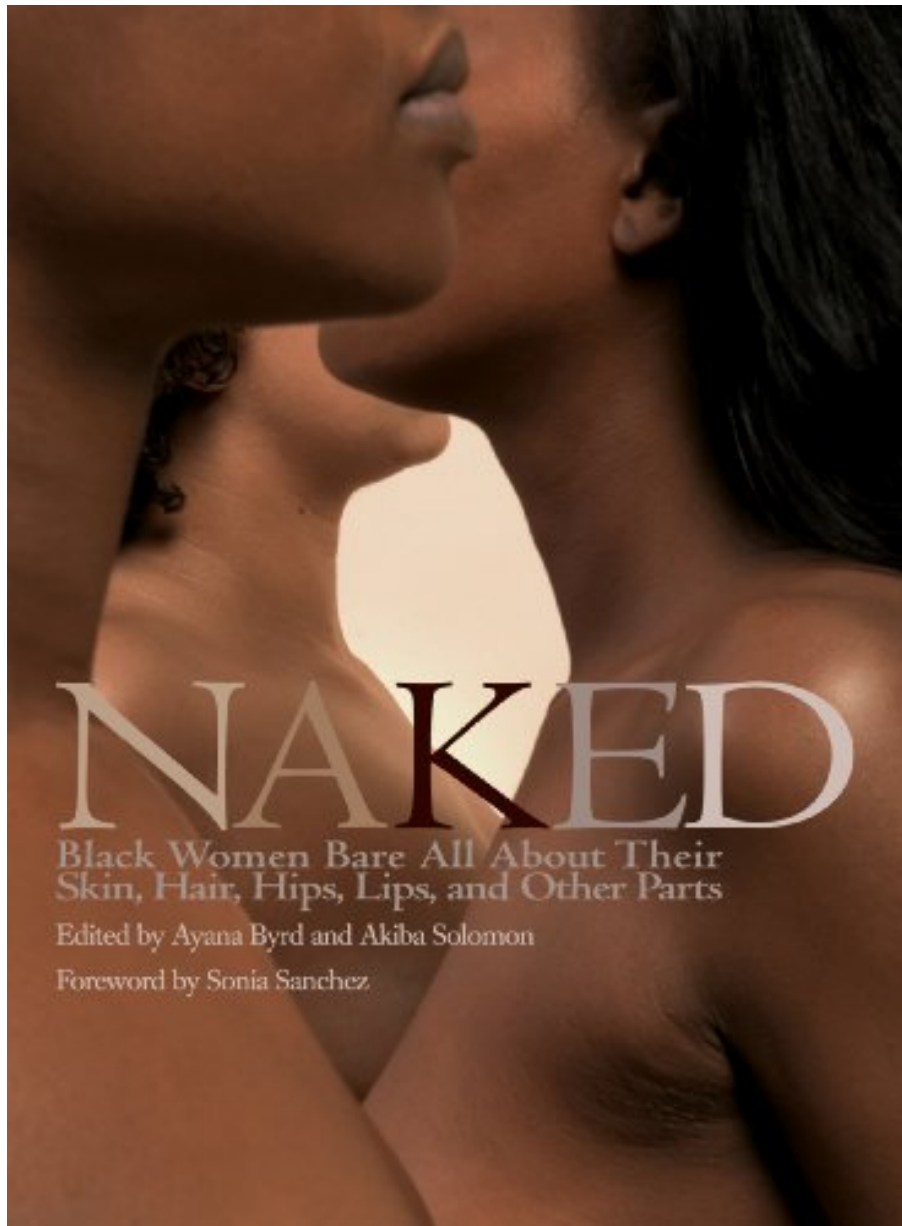


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From Publishers Weekly

"These bodies are for ourselves," says Sonia Sanchez in the introduction to this candid and provocative set of essays, all centered squarely on black women's bodies--and the myths and misogynies located therein. Byrd has written for *Vibe* and *Rolling Stone*; Solomon is a former senior editor at the *Source* and current health editor for *Essence*. Together, they have gathered black women from a variety of walks of life, from hip hop icon Melyssa Ford and superstar singer Kelis to an AIDS-afflicted feminist activist, and a former prostitute serving twenty-five years for murdering "a john... who became the unintended victim of my rage and depression and self-hatred." In between are notes on "My Tush" ("Butt, ass, bum, booty, rump, onion, junk in the trunk, ba-dunck-ka-dunk, rear, backside"), "Ho Gear," "The Curl," "Femme Invisibility" and a host of other hot button body issues. As empowering as it is demystifying, this book does not avert its gaze for a moment.

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Provocative essays on body image by black women.

Candid, witty, and insightful, *Naked* is a compelling collection of essays that captures what today's black women think about their bodies—from head to toe.

Tackling such issues as hair texture, skin color, weight, and sexuality, it follows women on their paths to acceptance—and enjoyment—of their unique features...to a place where it doesn't matter how big the breasts or how long the legs, only what is in the heart.

Includes contributions from women of all ages and walks of life, including such notables as:

- Iyanla Vanzant
- Jill Scott
- Kelis
- Tracee Ellis Ross
- Jill Nelson
- Hilda Hutcherson
- asha bandele
- Melyssa Ford

Edited by Ayana Byrd and Akiba Solomon

Foreword by Sonia Sanchez

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I loved this book. It made me feel good to know that there are women out here that look beautiful on the outside, but feel ugly on the inside. It doesn't matter if they are ugly or pretty, skinny or fat, this book made me realize that we all feel insecure about ourselves and that we take something we don't like on our bodies and over exaggerate about it. I finally learned to accept my body for the way it is and I can now see myself the way others see me:)

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