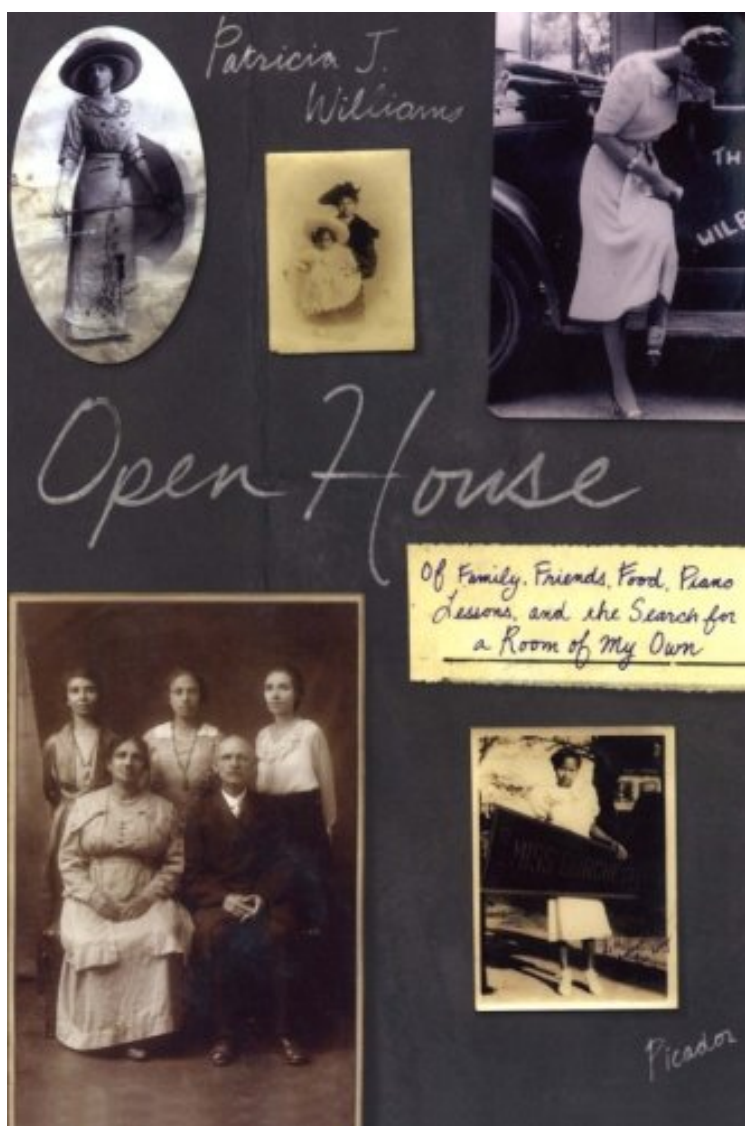


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Open House: Of Family, Friends, Food, Piano Lessons, and the Search for a Room of My Own

Patricia J. Williams

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#2503845 in Books Patricia J Williams 2005-11-01 2005-10-13Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .61 x 5.50l, .52 #File Name: 0312424590272 pagesOpen House Of Family Friends Food Piano Lessons and the Search for a Room of My Own | File size: 15.Mb

Patricia J. Williams : Open House: Of Family, Friends, Food, Piano Lessons, and the Search for a Room of My Own before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Open House: Of Family, Friends, Food, Piano Lessons, and the Search for a Room of My Own:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Only Book in the Wellesley Bookstore in the 1st week of August 2005! By Charles Morgan Patricia Williams has a column in the Nation, *Diary of a Mad Law Professor*, which I found out about through reading this great book. I was at a music conference at Wellesley last summer and happened upon this in the bookstore. There were not many other books, but thank God they decided at least to have something there by an alumna, because the three books I had brought were not wearing well: 1) a cynical though I suppose funny report on Howard Dean's presidential campaign, 2) a book about how to survive in a nasty office environment and 3) I forget the third. Not great energy! But Williams' book was very warm and funny. I was particularly admiring of how much she knew of her own family background. A lot of family background sections in the beginnings of autobiographies can be ho-hum. This one was a wild ride! It reads as though she knew her ancestors personally. The book is a very important discussion of race relations and you just want everything to go her way. The college bookstore had a much bigger selection THIS year. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Mauricio E Reyes Excellent book! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. We need more writers like Patricia Williams By Harriet Washington A warm, poignant, beautiful book that reveals Patricia Williams as more than one of the nation's most original and accomplished intellectuals: Reading this you come to know her as an equally brilliant mother, friend and human being. Would that we had more like her.

A warm and seductive meditation on the personal and political from a renowned columnist and "one of the great theorists of race and law" (Henry Louis Gates, Jr.). With her trademark wit and insight, Patricia Williams relates stories from the many facets of her life--as a lawyer, scholar, writer, African-American, descendant of slaves, mother, and single, fifty-something woman--always aware of the ironies inherent in situations where her many identities don't conform to societal expectations. The *Open House* of Williams's imagination takes us on a funny, often provocative, and entertaining journey which includes Oprah, Williams's Aunt Mary who passed as white, her Best White Friend, and tips on how to eat a watermelon without fear of racial judgment.

From Publishers Weekly With a rsum that includes degrees from Wellesley and Harvard Law School, a law professorship at Columbia, a column in the Nation and a trio of books, Williams would seem to have enough material to fill several volumes of memoirs. In this thought-provoking, unconventional one, she combines family history with discourses on everything from race, class and slavery's legacy to why she likes *O* magazine. One chapter, "The Kitchen," begins with an account of buying herself a cappuccino maker, moves to a consideration of homelessness in New York City, continues on to detail her father's heritage, segues to thoughts on why African-Americans give their children unusual names, returns to cappuccino and her sophisticated godmother, makes its way around to trying to cook a turkey and on from there to other food anecdotes and a description of sharing cinnamon toast and steamed milk with her young son. Williams skillfully integrates her probing analyses of social and political issues with riffs on such topics as turning 50 and Michael Jackson's "carving up his face like a paper doily" to form a fluid whole. The book's most affecting parts are the rich, loving stories about Williams's family, from those born into slavery to a grandfather who graduated from Meharry Medical College in 1907. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Williams, a law professor, offers her sharp legal and personal perspectives in this collection of essays on a variety of topics from race, politics, and family to personal identity. She recalls a vivacious great-aunt who was indentured as a young girl, later passed for white and married a wealthy white man, and eventually reclaimed her racial identity and settled into a life as the family's grand dame. Williams' participation in Anna Devereaux Smith's Institute for Arts and Civic Dialogue provokes her to recognize her hidden talents and longings. The trend toward minorities, most notably Michael Jackson, using plastic surgery prompts observations about standards of beauty. She reveals more of her personal perspective as the mother of an adolescent adopted son, coping with middle age. Williams notes her admiration for Oprah Winfrey for having accomplished with her magazine and her television show the integration of black folks into regular status. Williams has done something similar with her book, which examines race and sex within the context of mundane life and its simple struggles and observations. Vanessa Bush Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved This is a book you'll want to pass along to every bold woman you know. Michelle Green, *People* (Critic's Choice, four stars) *Open House* has the freewheeling energy of a private diary that has been shaped by the focused thoughtfulness of a very public-minded soul. Elle Williams's down-to-earth storytelling style, peppered with humor, makes her witty and insightful points accessible and entertaining. Black Issues Book