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Katie McCabe, Dovey Johnson Roundtree
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JUSTICE OLDER THAN THE LAW

The Life of Dovey Johnson Roundtree



KATIE MCCABE AND DOVEY JOHNSON ROUNDTREE

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Katie McCabe, Dovey Johnson Roundtree : Justice Older than the Law: The Life of Dovey Johnson Roundtree (Margaret Walker Alexander Series in African American Studies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Justice Older than the Law: The Life of Dovey Johnson Roundtree (Margaret Walker Alexander Series in African American Studies):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. all the rave reviews are right!By ReaderFirst of all, read this book even if you think it's not usually your 'type' of book.The author of this book spoke at my daughter's school. My daughter- age 14- came home amazed at Dovey Johnson Roundtree's life and asked if we could get the book. I was a bit cautious- it is an adult book, and the material is sometimes intense, so I bought it pre-read it.It is *not* light reading, but it is genuine and genuinely moving and ultimately uplifting. That sounds like a cliché, like the front of every book club book, but there is a humanity and a warm, wry voice in this book that lifts it above so many others that would seem to be in the same category. I passed the book on to my daughter she loved it as well. She was absolutely absorbed by it, and while she acknowledges that it is not always a cheerful book, she kept wanting to read on. At the end we both felt that we had learned a lot about a time and a world that is different than either of us have known, but also about a woman who is so real and human that we feel we know her a bit. And, we are inspired by her to try and be our best selves.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Love this book!!By BWAWhat an amazing woman! I can't tell you how much I love this book. I happen to be a lawyer, but even if you are not you need to read this book. Any person that is interested in women's rights, civil rights or just American history should read this. I wish all high school/college kids would read this. There's so much to be learned from this history. A great read!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. JUSTICE AND DOVEY PHENOMENAL !!By kathleen nuzzoI'm buying many copies of this book and have high hope of one day seeing this story told on the BIG SCREEN!! Dovey J. Roundtree will be 102 years young this April 17, 2016!! She's is my heroine in these times....most of you wouldn't know that she was one of the first 40 young black women who successfully integrated the United States Army!! Before the men!! Also she went up against the United States government, the Dept of Justice and the CIA, and won a case you wouldn't believe who was involved!! She's a PHENOM!! AS MARCO IN BUDAPEST WOULD SAY!!!

Winner of the Association of Black Women Historians' 2009 Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Book PrizeFrom the streets of Charlotte, North Carolina, to the segregated courtrooms of the nation's capital, from the white male bastion of the World War II Army to the male stronghold of Howard University Law School, from the pulpits of churches where women had waited for years for the right to minister-in all these places Dovey Johnson Roundtree (b. 1914) sought justice. Though she is a legendary African American figure in the legal community of Washington, D.C., she remains largely unknown to the American public.Justice Older than the Law is her story, the product of a remarkable, ten-year collaboration with National Magazine Award winner Katie McCabe. As a protégé of Mary McLeod Bethune, Roundtree became one of the first women to break the gender and color barriers in the United States military. Inspired by Thurgood Marshall and James Madison Nabrit, Jr., at Howard University Law School, Roundtree went on to make history by winning a 1955 bus desegregation case, *Sarah Keys v. Carolina Coach Company*. That decision demolished separate but equal in the realm of interstate transportation and enabled Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy to combat southern resistance to the Freedom Riders campaign in 1961.At a time when black attorneys had to leave the courthouses to use the bathrooms, Roundtree took on Washington's white legal establishment and prevailed. She led the vanguard of women ordained to the ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1961 and merged her law practice with her ministry to fight for families and children being destroyed by urban violence. Hers is a vision of biblical and social justice older by far than the law, and her life story speaks movingly and urgently to our racially troubled times.

"In *Justice Older Than the Law: The Life of Dovey Johnson Roundtree* we meet the pioneering lawyer and minister who was among the first black female World War II military officers. We learn how she prevailed in a desegregation case that ended 'separate but equal' interstate bus travel and won acquittal for a slow-witted black man accused of murdering a mistress of John F. Kennedy."But the new book also manages to immerse readers in Roundtree's life, creating a real sense of what it was like to live as a black person in segregated Charlotte and the Jim Crow South. Often, the narrative reads like a work of fiction. McCabe accomplishes this partly by writing in Roundtree's first-person voice. 'I became more and more convinced, if my goal was to get her soul and her spirit across to people, that could only be done with her voice,' McCabe says."To mark the book's publication, first lady Michelle Obama has written a letter of tribute. 'It is on the shoulders of people like Dovey Johnson Roundtree that we stand today,' the first lady writes, 'and it is with her commitment to our core ideals that we will continue moving toward a better tomorrow.'"--Charlotte ObserverDovey Roundtree is my hero. As a young public defender, I watched with amazement her great work in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Knowing what she has overcome and her amazing accomplishments as not only a graduate of Spelman College and Howard Law School, but also as a superb lawyer, I am convinced that her story will be comforting to anyone facing obstacles. This is not only a great read, but a must read. I recommend it to anyone thinking about justice or trying to find ways to overcome challenges they face.Charles J. Ogletree, Jesse Climenko Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, founding and executive director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race Justice, and author of *Without Parole: America's New Death Penalty*"I simply loved this book. I have a proclivity for fiction and find the character "Dovey" a real, heartfelt woman whose humble beginnings reflect the progress of the race from the 1920s to the 1960s. Her matriculation at Spelman, her internal

conflict entering the "middle class," mentoring by Mary McLeod Bethune, all humanize the raw emotions thousands of early twentieth-century achievers must have encountered with living the dreams of the entire African American community. Kudos in crafting an engaging read from the well-lived life of minister, lawyer, military and humanitarian Dovey. Amazing story."--Citation of the judges, 2009 Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Book Prize, Association of Black Women Historians"Justice Older than the Law moved me at times to tears. Dovey Roundtree's nobility, the courage and effectiveness of her work, are enough to restore one's hope for the human race. The book, though it describes an era that is past, is above all a study of something that doesn't change much--human character and its possibilities."--Time magazine essayist Lance Morrow"Dovey Johnson Roundtree and Katie McCabe invite you to enter a home, sit down in the 'Living Room of a Black American Family,' to visit with them for a little while. You will learn so very much about determination, values, courage, manners, and the moral strength of this family. The experience will enhance your appreciation for the struggles and achievements against the odds, and the meanness of stereotypes. And you will observe the beauty and grace of honest efforts toward good and useful lives. You will see and learn American history and human history at its best."--Dr. Walter J. Leonard, former president of Fisk University and founding committee chair of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research, Harvard University"To read how Dovey Roundtree struggled to help others and to make a difference in our world is exalting. This book tells what one determined, unstoppable woman did with her life to change laws and traditions to make America a better, fairer, and more respectful country. It gives us another view of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, Justice Thurgood Marshall, and other historic icons through her interaction with them. Katie McCabe has done a formidable job of entering Dovey's mind, memory, and soul to produce this first-person account of a woman of our history whose virtues we should enshrine on a pedestal of honor."--Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught, USAF (Ret.), president, Women in Military Service for America Memorial FoundationFrom the AuthorA 1995 Washington Post piece drew me to Dovey Roundtree. Actress Cicely Tyson was raving about her, calling her passion for justice "astounding," and explaining why she'd based her television depiction of a maverick civil rights lawyer on Dovey. I'd been drawn to stories of African American heroes ever since I discovered surgical pioneer Vivien Thomas, who was the inspiration for my Washingtonian article "Like Something the Lord Made" and the Emmy-winning HBO film of the same name. But Dovey's life, personality and voice captivated me in a new way. Though I originally conceived this book as a standard biography, I concluded that only a first-person approach to Dovey's life could convey the force of her spirit. That she and I were separated by 40 years in time and the divide of race that even now splits America seemed to me insignificant in comparison to what we shared. Dovey's story raises critical questions at a critical time in our history: What is justice? What sort of society are we aiming toward? How can we recapture values we seem to have lost? Dovey's answer is embedded in the story of her life, and the fight she took to the streets and jailhouses, the churches, and ultimately, the hearts of individuals.From the Inside FlapThe autobiography of a groundbreaking civil rights crusader, lawyer, and ordained minister