

MEDIA PAGE

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Vintage & Anchor Books | The Knopf Doubleday Group

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**THE FIREBRAND AND THE FIRST LADY:
Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt,
and the Struggle for Social Justice
By Patricia Bell-Scott**

Vintage, On Sale: January 24, 2017

A Finalist for the Andrew Carnegie Award for Excellence in Nonfiction

Nominated for the National Book Award

A *Washington Post* Notable Book

A *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Kirkus*, and *Booklist* Best Book of the Year

"Masterful . . . Powerful and important." —***Boston Globe***

"Thorough and engaging . . . Our lives are richer for the accounting of their
friendship in this important book."
—***The Washington Post***

"Tremendous." —***The New York Times Book Review***

"[Written] with the grace, compassion and diligent attention to detail that characterized
both of its principal subjects. . . . 'The Firebrand' is someone
whose inspiration is sorely needed."
—***USA Today***

"A definitive biography of Murray, a trailblazing legal scholar and a tremendous
influence on Mrs. Roosevelt."
—***Essence***

"Bold, fast-paced, and vividly written, Patricia Bell-Scott's dual portrait of Pauli Murray and
Eleanor Roosevelt significantly enhances the story of two luminous activists who learned
much from each other across the color line."
—**Blanche Wiesen Cook, author of *Eleanor Roosevelt: I, II, and III***

"Extraordinary and inspiring." —***Shelf Awareness***

"A fresh look at a fascinating friendship between two vivid individuals from very different worlds — as well as a chronicle of the age-old conflict between the highest ideals and the art of the possible."

—**Geoffrey C. Ward, author of *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History***

"A groundbreaking portrait . . . essential and edifying." —**Booklist (starred review)**

"Should inspire all readers. Rarely has a friendship been dissected and analyzed with such verve and open-eyed compassion."

—**Wil Haygood, author of *Showdown: Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court Nomination that Changed America***

"Deftly reveals two women's crucial involvement in the struggle for civil rights . . . An absorbing historical page-turner."

—**Publishers Weekly (starred review)**

"The extraordinary life of Pauli Murray, activist, poet, teacher, priest and "firebrand" for all seasons, is beautifully detailed in Patricia Bell-Scott's book. . . . [Murray and Roosevelt's] history together reverberates today as the fight for equality continues, making this book important reading for all of us."

—**Jane Alexander, award winning actress**

"Bell-Scott shines a bright light on this significant relationship. A fresh look at Eleanor Roosevelt and a fascinating exploration of a cherished, mutually beneficial friendship."

—**Kirkus Reviews, (starred review)**

"What an exquisite book! Patricia Bell-Scott has done the painstaking research on two women who in many respects couldn't have been more different, but in at least one respect — their unique friendship—shared a passion for truth . . . Patricia Bell-Scott has given us a book that will inspire and give hope to all who read it."

—**The Rt. Rev. Mary D. Glasspool, Bishop Suffragan, Diocese of Los Angeles.**

"Biography at its best: intimate while revealing of society in its time. Patricia Bell-Scott sees all, and her view is both engrossing and encouraging."

—**Nell Irvin Painter, author of *Sojourner Truth, A Life, A Symbol***

Patricia Bell-Scott's THE FIREBRAND AND THE FIRST LADY: PORTRAIT OF A FRIENDSHIP: PAULI MURRAY, ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, AND THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (Vintage, January 24, 2017, \$17.00). A finalist for the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction, and longlisted for the National Book Award, *The Firebrand and the First Lady* is the riveting history, two decades in the making, of how a brilliant writer-turned-activist and the first lady of the United States forged an enduring friendship that helped to alter the course of race and racism in America.

In 1938, the twenty-eight-year-old Pauli Murray wrote a letter to the President and First Lady, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, protesting racial segregation in the South. Eleanor wrote back. So began a friendship that would last for a quarter of a century, as Pauli became a lawyer, principal strategist in the fight to protect Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights

Act and a co-founder of the National Organization of Women, and Eleanor became a diplomat and first chair of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

About the Author:

PATRICIA BELL-SCOTT is professor emerita of women's studies and human development and family science at the University of Georgia. Her previous books include *Life Notes: Personal Writings by Contemporary Black Women*, *Flat-Footed Truths: Telling Black Women's Lives*, and *Double Stitch: Black Women Write About Mothers & Daughters*, which won the Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Book Prize. She lives in Athens, Georgia, with her husband, Charles V. Underwood Jr.

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