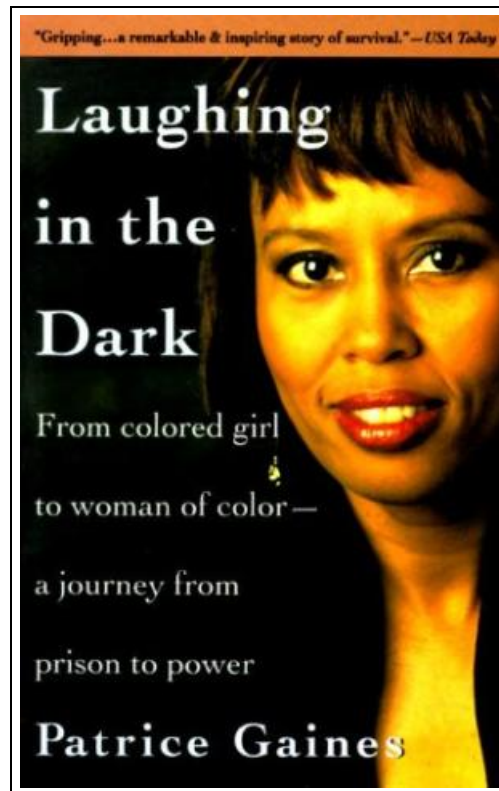


## Laughing in the Dark: From Colored Girl to Woman of Color



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*(Dr. Kayden Gerlach)*

## LAUGHING IN THE DARK: FROM COLORED GIRL TO WOMAN OF COLOR



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Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group Inc, United States, 1995. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Anchor Books ed. 198 x 130 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. One hot day in June 1970, twenty-one-year-old Patrice Gaines stared through a narrow jail cell window at her baby daughter cradled in the arms of her grandfather on the street below. She called to her daughter, but she couldn't hear her through the thick barred glass. She waved, but her little daughter didn't know where to look to find her mother. In that moment of supreme isolation and loss, Patrice Gaines became determined to make something of her life. Starting out as an unwed mother with a drug rap, a black woman in an America that honored neither blacks nor women, she would have a hard and painful journey. Laughing in the Dark tells how Gaines became a woman her daughter could be proud of - a woman capable of both independence and love. When you're a black child in America, Patrice Gaines writes of her growing-up, your inclination is to feel powerless - and you will in fact lack power, unless someone intervenes to teach you how to possess it. I had already bought into powerlessness. Being a black girl-child meant I had about as much influence in the world as there was in my itty-bitty finger, or as much as I saw my mother hold in our family. I grabbed hold of these young men that other people called thugs, hustlers, or hoodlums. They were my power - and my freedom. What did I know about the power within me? From her early years as a military brat and her segregated schooling in the South, from her sad and fearful encounters with wrong and damaged men, from the depths...



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