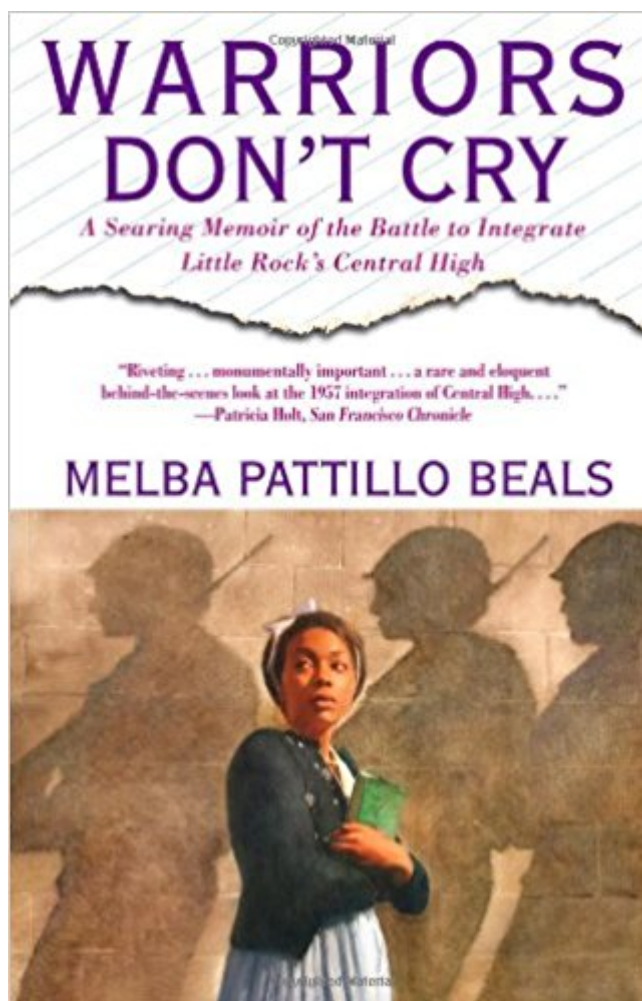


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# Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir Of The Battle To Integrate Little Rock's Central High



## Synopsis

In 1957, well before Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech, Melba Pattillo Beals and eight other teenagers became iconic symbols for the Civil Rights Movement and the dismantling of Jim Crow in the American South as they integrated Little Rock's Central High School in the wake of the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling, *Brown v. Board of Education*. Throughout her harrowing ordeal, Melba was taunted by her schoolmates and their parents, threatened by a lynch mob's rope, attacked with lighted sticks of dynamite, and injured by acid sprayed in her eyes. But through it all, she acted with dignity and courage, and refused to back down.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The author forcefully recalls how, at age 15, she and several other black teenagers were chosen to integrate Little Rock's Central High following the passage of *Brown v. Board of Education*. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"Beals, one of the nine black students who integrated Central High School in Little Rock, AR, in 1957, tells an incredible story of faith, family love, friendships, and strong personal commitment."

---School Library Journal --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Without getting into a long and winding "poor me," the writer explains what she went through during a difficult period in our history, when some of our people were raised in a way today's Americans

would not think enlightened or proper. Their actions and behavior we would now (and many did then but were too scared or unable to act on) consider abominable, and the author experienced it. We need to know how our forbears both behaved and responded. Read this and know.

I'm so glad the author kept this piece of our history alive. When we read the headlines, it's clear we're not past the inequalities, the hatred, the self-justifications of the toxic racism the author experienced. I'd like to thank her here for remaining so stalwart and dignified. The author gives us insights into how difficult it is to break the barriers. The people who could'nt support her were certainly not evil, not moral slackers... they knew first-hand the power of the institutionalized hatred, and they knew the potential cost to their families... Not a mild rebuke. Not some mild social disapproval. One's house could be burned down in the middle of the night, or blown up. Lynchings were not unknown. And to add fuel to the fire, the local authorities, the state government, the military units called in were complicit in the open threats of violence and sometimes the instances of actual violence perpetrated against this handful of teenagers.

The book was excellent. It was well written, the author created a sense that you were right there with her integrating the school. Every time one of the white children spit at her, kicked her, tried to set her on fire or push her down the stairs I was on the edge of my seat rooting for her. Her relationship with Danny the 101st Airborne Ranger who was her bodyguard was very moving, and how she used prayer to monitor her self talk and constantly regain composure and the initiative against her adversaries. This is a must read for anyone who has ever been violently treated as an outsider, a must read for youth struggling with identity and purpose, older people who lived through the era and middle aged people who are struggling with the direction of society. I was moved by Melba's courage, her passion, her ability to put her life on hold as a sixteen year old girl coming into her womanhood, for the struggle of her people. Today's youth face a hard road of war and poverty. The financial freedoms that we knew as Americans are fastly fading away. Like Melba's generation the youth face war, racism and an uncertain future. This book hopefully will inspire the next generations of Melbas. In the coming years ahead the youth will face new unprecedented challenges and our society will need warriors like Melba Beal to stand up and say no this is wrong no matter what the consequences.

This was an awesome book. I lived during this time period, but lived in another state. I think

everyone in my state lived in a bubble - not really knowing that these types of things were going on. It was enlightening to read this wonderful story about our country's past in the south. Thanks to the author for writing it.

It is an honest story of a struggle that most kids don't need to understand today, because most kids are accepted regardless of race nowadays.. However, this struggle is a real and cruel part of our history. This is a great story for teenagers or adults. Personally, I found the religious statements an obstacle as I tried to read the book. I was trying to understand that religion was a huge part of the main character's motivation, but I felt disconnected from the book after these references started to appear on almost every page.

This book was recommended to me by a fellow traveler. I looked it up on , and though it didn't cry out to me, I realized that it was about desegregation during the mid 50's when I was a teenager myself but didn't recall much about it. The book is extremely well written by the author who was one of the nine black students who integrated the first white high school in Arkansas. I was shocked to read what these courageous young people and their families endured physically and verbally by classmates, teachers, neighbors, all the way up to Governor Forbus. I literally could not put this book down.

Bought for my daughter who is reading this in class. I read it first. It is an important story, but it drags so much I lost interest after the first half. Which is a shame, because I find this piece of history fascinating. I am appalled at the people who said and did terrible things based on race during this time. I'm sure all readers will do as I have done and ask themselves, how would I have reacted? We'd all like to think we are above that kind of thing, but considering the times and the generations of tradition, I wonder if many of us might have fallen victim to the same awful thinking if that's all we'd been taught. A good reminder that each of us needs to think for ourselves and establish higher standards for how we treat each other and believe.

My respect and admiration for the author is beyond words. What she and the other black students endured made for painful and sad reading. I salute their remarkable courage!

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