Jasmine Brown. *Twice as Hard: The Stories of Black Women Who Fought to Become Physicians, From the Civil War to the 21st Century*. Boston: Beacon Press. 2023. Pp. 240. Hardcover $24.95.

Jasmine Brown, a medical student at the University of Pennsylvania, tells the stories of nine women, many African American, who overcame sexism and racism in pursuit of medical careers in her book *Twice as Hard*. The nine chapters of the book discuss the immense challenges these women encountered in a discriminatory society that marginalized them because of their race and gender.

Rebecca Lee Crumpler was the first African American woman to obtain a medical degree in the U.S, shortly after President Abraham Lincoln passed the Emancipation Proclamation (1863). In 1864, she graduated from medical school, which was exactly 15 years after white women and 27 years after black men were allowed to become physicians. Her story places an emphasis on how there was still a long way to go for true progress to be accomplished.

Elizabeth Blackwell, born to a white middle-class family, had a slightly easier experience pursuing a career in medicine because she had professional connections. However, the fate of her career was left in the hands of her medical school body which consisted of 150 white men. It only took one vote of "no" to deny Blackwell admission to the medical program. The men agreed to allow Blackwell to join the program, with the purpose of humiliating and discouraging her. Blackwell's story reveals how men believed women were incapable of having successful careers.

May Chinn came from a financially disadvantaged family but gained secondhand exposure to school education from her mother's wealthy employers. As a medical student, however, she experienced financial hardships. Chinn constantly worried about whether she would be able to pay her way through medical school. Financial burden was used as a method to prevent black people from progressing and Chinn's story is proof of this.

Dorothy Ferebee came from a family of accomplished, highly educated, black professionals. Her sexist classmates and professors presented challenges for her in medical school. In a medical class of 143 students, only five were women. Ferebee and her female peers found solace in one another because together they navigated the sexism encountered in the classroom setting. Like Blackwell, Ferebee was presented with the challenge of being the only woman in medical school.

Lena Edwards attended Howard University, a historically black college. Being a student at a segregated school motivated her to help other underserved communities. As an obstetrician-gynecologist, she developed a twenty-five-bed maternity clinic for Mexican migrant workers. She helped care for more than 500 families and delivered 320 babies. Her contributions were recognized by President John F. Kennedy and she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Dr. Edwards' story exemplifies the legacy of a black woman who had accessibility to resources and financial support.

Edith Irby Jones attended the University of Arkansas School of Medicine, during a time and place where Jim Crow Laws ruled the South. She was the first black woman to attend a university in the Jim Crow South. Being a student at an unwelcoming school was a big challenge for Dr. Jones, but her determination and courage was undeniably inspiring to the black community.

Joycelyn Elders was not only a student at Philander Smith College, but a member of the military as well. When completing her military and school careers, she became the director of the Arkansas Department of Health. She helped spread knowledge about sex education and HIV/AIDS prevention to marginalized, black communities. Dr. Elders helped save the lives of many impoverished black people, by raising awareness about sexually transmitted diseases and providing proper care.

Marilyn Hughes Gaston encountered the realities of systemic oppression as a medical student. Her white, male peers were openly racist towards her and sexually harassed her as well. The members of her school board were older, white men, so she was unable to confide in them. As director of the Bureau of Primary Health Care, she was dedicated to helping sexually

abused patients. Dr. Gaston was the first black woman to do so. Her story raises awareness about how the voices of black women often go unheard.

Risa Lavisso was born in the Jim Crow South, but eventually became a medical student at Harvard University. During an interview conducted by Jasmine Brown, she openly expressed how many of her white classmates and professors openly admitted to believing black people were incapable of becoming successful physicians. Black students were also blamed for taking admission spots from "more capable" white students. Her interview gives insight to what life was like for a black woman attending an Ivy League school.

Jasmine Brown's social history tells the untold stories of nine women who came from different backgrounds but shared similar experiences with racism and sexism as both students and professionals. The long-erased stories and accomplishments of these nine women were successfully brought to light. These stories help reveal that black women experienced more aggressive forms of discrimination throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This book would serve as an inspiration to undergraduate and medical students, especially black women who continue to fight for recognition for their achievements.

Dailene Burgara

Felipe Fernández-Armesto. *Straits: Beyond the Myth of Magellan*. Oakland: University of California Press, 2022. Pp. 361. Hardcover $21.99.

In *Straits: Beyond the Myth of Magellan*, William P. Reynolds Professor of History at the University of Notre-Dame, Felipe Fernández-Armesto argues that much of what we believe about the late fifteenth and early sixteenth-century Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan is false and that his career was overwhelmingly marked by failure rather than success. Most of Magellan's ships were lost; many of his crew members died; his voyages were largely unprofitable. The Portuguese explorer never reached his destination of the Indies, instead landing in the Philippines. The circumnavigation was carried out by his