



## ***Embracing Your Loud, Black, and Powerful Voice When the World Tries to Silence You***

"Your voice has unimaginable power, and you have every right to use it. This book will show you how."

—from the foreword by **Danielle Coke**, illustrator, advocate, and entrepreneur

In a world in which being a white, straight, cisgender man is the gold standard, loud Black women regularly find themselves at odds with power structures and systems that were not constructed for their flourishing. Many are made to feel that their life doesn't matter, their opinions aren't valid, and their entire existence is too loud. It can feel like the whole world is telling them to shut up.

In *I Won't Shut Up: Finding Your Voice When the World Tries to Silence You* (Baker Books, June 2023) speaker and advocate Ally Henny empowers readers to push back against oppression, find their voice, and embrace who they truly are as loud Black women. She speaks to those who are tired of feeling silenced, misunderstood, and abused by society—providing powerful words of liberation that elevate Black voices and push back against harmful systems of oppression.

In this unvarnished perspective on racism, Henny

- reflects on her own life experiences, knowing what it's like to navigate racism and racialized sexism in predominantly white spaces
- empowers Black women to reclaim their identity and use their voice to change the world
- challenges and resists white societal norms that have held Black women captive—speaking the truth no matter the cost
- defies stereotypes and exposes power structures that were not designed for Black women to flourish
- and much more...

### ***I Won't Shut Up: Finding Your Voice When the World Tries to Silence You***

by Ally Henny

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## About the Author



**Ally Henny** is a writer, speaker, advocate-minister, and vice president of [The Witness: A Black Christian Collective](#), an organization committed to encouraging, engaging, and empowering Black Christians toward liberation from racism. She completed her MDiv from Fuller Seminary with an emphasis in race, cultural identity, and reconciliation, and she hopes to lead a church someday. Ally has been leading conversations about race on her social media and blog, The Armchair Commentary, since 2014, and her posts reach millions each month. She is a proud Chicago Southsider.

### PRAISE for *I Won't Shut Up*

"With candor, wit, and wisdom Ally Henny breaks it all the way down in her debut book, *I Won't Shut Up*. Through an exploration of her life and experiences, Ally offers a glimpse of what it looks like to be your full self in a way that will not be silenced by the racism that often prefers that Black people be neither seen nor heard. *I Won't Shut Up* isn't just about finding your voice but amplifying it to create a more just and inclusive world."

—**Jemar Tisby**, PhD, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Color of Compromise* and *How to Fight Racism*; professor at Simmons College of Kentucky

"This book is a love letter to every Black woman and girl who has been told that we are too loud, too angry, too intimidating, too outspoken, too nonconformist, too Black, too feminist . . . too much. Ally Henny draws deep from the well of her own experience to show us that we do not have to silence, shrink, or contort ourselves to fit a world that was never made for us. We can live loud, love loud, and even leave loud."

—**Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes**, clinical psychologist, public theologian, and author of *I Bring the Voices of My People* and *Too Heavy a Yoke*

"*I Won't Shut Up* is a powerful and bold declaration that reminds us of just how sacred Black women's voices are--especially when they're loud and proud and unapologetic. In her refusal to let white supremacy shut her up, Ally Henny gives us permission to do the same: to not let white supremacy dictate how we live, move, and have our being in this world. This book is a true gift--a guide while on this journey of collective healing and liberation. To those who have ears to hear, let them hear."

—**Kat Armas**, author of *Abuelita Faith* and host of The Protagonistas podcast

## Sample Interview Questions for Ally Henny

### *I Won't Shut Up: Finding Your Voice When the World Tries to Silence You*

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- Thanks for joining us! Will you tell us a little bit about your story and why you decided to write *I Won't Shut Up*?
  - You know what it's like to navigate racism and racialized sexism, having spent most of your life in predominantly white spaces. Tell us about that. What encouragement do you have for those of us who are in the same situation?
  - In your book, you talk about managing the losses that come with finding and using your voice. Can you say more about that?
  - You talk about several experiences that you've had with racism that are quite intense, but the way you recount them almost seems comedic. Why did you choose to tell your story in this way?
  - Your book is divided into acts, and has an overture, two intermissions, and a curtain call. What's behind this theme?
  - As a Black woman who is talkative in some situations and more reserved in others, you're often the subject of white suspicion and insecurity. How has this shaped your identity?
  - What is one way Black women can reclaim their loud, powerful voice?
  - You say that Black women always have to be "on" and don't get no rest. What does that feel like?
  - It may surprise many of us that you struggle with self-consciousness, embarrassment, and even shame around using your voice. How do you stay true to your voice despite these feelings?
  - Your grandma's cancer diagnosis brought you face-to-face with Injustice. What was this like? How did it make your voice stronger?
  - What is injustice as the "constellation of harms"? How does it help us fight against individualism and toxic positivity?
  - The world places heavy burdens of white supremacy on Black people. What are some examples of these burdens? How can we move forward and find freedom by laying our burdens down?
  - How has your faith played a role in your life? What message do you have to fellow Christians seeking to stand for racial equality and support Black voices in the church today?
  - Thank you for such an encouraging conversation. We've talked about a lot of great things today. If our audience could take away *one* thing from this interview, what would it be?
  - Where can our audience go to connect with you and purchase a copy of *I Won't Shut Up*?
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*To request an interview or a copy of the book, please contact:*

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