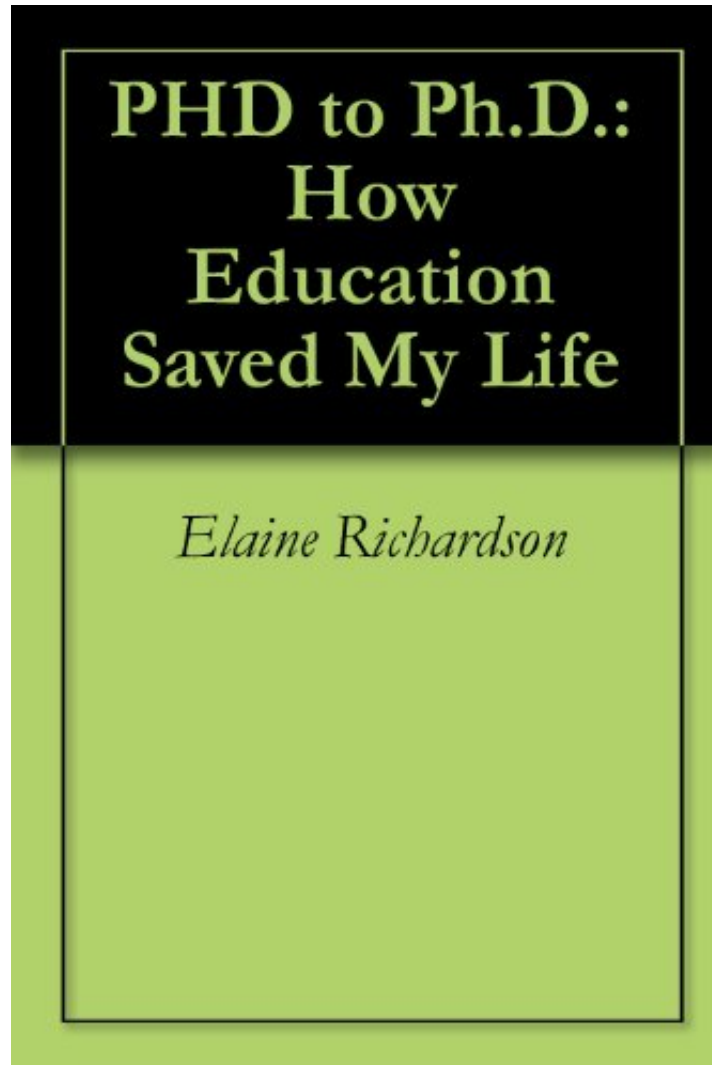


# PHD to Ph.D.: How Education Saved My Life



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## Synopsis

"There was a time when Elaine Richardson was one of 'the Negroes everybody pointed to as the Negroes you didn't want to become.' The title of this book is no metaphor or allusion, but a literal shorthand for a remarkable, unpredictable journey. She inherits a plain way of talking about horrific pain from a mother who seemed impossible to shock. The way too fast way she grew up was and is too common, but her will to remap her destiny is uncommon indeed. To call her story inspiring would be itself too plain a thing, hers is a heroic life." -dream Hampton, writer and filmmaker | ABOUT THE AUTHOR: ELAINE RICHARDSON, Professor of Literacy Studies in the College of Education and Human Ecology at The Ohio State University, is focused on literacy education of African American and African diasporic people, and specializes in critical language and literacy education for social equality. RICHARDSON belongs to a global network of Hiphop activist-educators for social transformation. Richardson founded The Ohio State University Hiphop Literacies Conference and the SistaFriends Afterschool Program in 2011 (currently serving sixth to eighth grade girls at Sherwood Middle school). RICHARDSON uses her story of recovery from human trafficking and drugs to becoming an award winning PhD and recording artist to motivate others. RICHARDSON'S bachelor's and master's degrees are from Cleveland State University and her doctorate from Michigan State University. She has won awards from the National Council of Negro Women, City of Columbus, and Cleveland State University, and other organizations.





























## What people say about this book

Troy of AALBC . com, "Hers is a story of triumph against all odds.. PHD (Po Ho on Dope) to Ph.D.: How Education Saved My Life by Elaine Richardson begins in a poor and working class section of Cleveland Ohio during the 1960s. Daddy is a retired musician who keeps himself busy as a volunteer superintendent of the building where he and his family live. Mama (a Jamaican immigrant) is a kind, hard-working, cleaning woman who dreams of a better life for her son, Chris and daughter, Elaine. Elaine Richardson's descent from innocent junior high school kid to drug-addicted prostitute begins with a deep seated sense of guilt. Shocked and depressed by the abortion of a baby conceived during her first sexual experience, Richardson starts hanging with the wrong crowd. She is only 13 when she meets Andrew Ball, a 17-year-old thug who has been in and out of juvenile detention centers for many years. He is cool, good looking and a smooth talker. She is smitten and starts breaking curfew to spend time with him. Andrew is a hustler who is supported by a young prostitute called Fat Bitch and Richardson is too young to understand that it won't be long before he turns her out as well. read the full review at aalbc.com"

Iris Smith, "PHD to Ph.D how Education Saved my Life. Songstress, educator, and author Docta E Richardson has written a new book, "PHD Po H# on Dope" here is my review, it is a must read! PHD to Ph.D "Po H# on Dope" How Education Saved My life A compelling most fascinating, tale of self-hatred woe, desperation, motivation and finally triumph! Elaine Richardson's life from the streets of Cleveland, to the streets of New York City, back to Cleveland, a life full of domestic violence, drug abuse, self- abuse, and total dislike and lack of love for herself is at the least fascinating. This book, this story needs to be told, read, shared with "EVERY" black female who has and does struggle with low self-esteem! It is a story that many a brown, dark skinned sister can certainly identify with, in a world that is still failing to see that there is true beauty in all spectrum's of blackness! Elaine takes us with her on her journey into the life of self-destruction, prostitution; drugs, junkies, pimps, murderers, baby mama, baby daddy; it is all here, tears of sadness to tears of joy. When she just cannot handle it anymore life leads her back to where she was meant to be, back on the right track, back to Education, her live saving redeemer! Just when you think you can't go on, when you think to yourself, "I'm tired, should I continue to try" someone drops a story that gives you hope, lights a fire, says to you don't you "DARE" quit! "PHD to Ph.D, Po H# on Dope" Dr. Elaine Richardson does and gives hope, lights the fire, she did not quit, and I hope her story inspires other to keep the faith, not give up hope and never, ever quit! PHD to Ph.D "Po H# on Dope" Can be purchased at Amazon, and Barnes and Noble, get a copy you will not be disappointed Iris S. Smith Soul/Patrol C.O.P. Eirissmith@live.com"

Porshe Renee, "You Need This Book!. PHD to Ph.D. is an ABSOLUTE MUST READ! Within this manuscript, lies an honest account of Dr. Elaine Richardson's (Dr. E) journey to victory and



freedom. Overcoming first generation status in both citizenship and schooling, Richardson reveals her truth, allowing readers an up-close-and-personal account of how systems fail women of color especially during times of struggle. I instantly connected to Dr. E's lived experience because my mother's story is very similar. My mother was born to a Jamaican mother and Caymanian father. She migrated to the U.S. at the age of nine with her mother. At the age of 18 she became an addict, street worker, and mother. As the daughter of a former street worker/addict Dr. E's text gave me more of an insider perspective from my mother's point of view during that time in her life--what it meant to be addict and mother. While reading I found myself smiling, crying, laughing, saying amen, and thanking God for hearing the prayers of Dr. E and my mother. I also thanked God for second chances; second chances to love our loved ones during and post addiction. For families who have members who are recovering this text will help you understand and heal. All readers can use Dr. E's account of survival as encouragement to their personal battles and as a testament that success is possible no matter how long we take to get there."

Sue W, "An important memoir from an important scholar. I knew Elaine Richardson's scholarly work long before this book came out. This memoir shows where the scholar and the particular work she does came from. It's a compelling story, sometimes tough to read because of the intensity of her experiences, but well worth it. She doesn't hold back on the gritty and sometimes graphic details, and I'm glad, because by being so honest, she becomes a genuine role model for others who have also looked at their lives and wondered how they strayed so far from what they once dreamed of becoming and what their families dreamed of for them. There *are* second acts in American lives, and Elaine Richardson is the proof."

mostAwesomepersonnever, "Very moving true life story!! This book is the refreshingly honest life story of Dr. Elaine Richardson. In a sea of articles about how higher education is not worth the cost, Dr. E sheds light on the true value of education and how she was able to use it as a tool to lift her out of the lowest of low places that ultimately saved her life. This poses the question to us all, if she can do it why cant I. Dr. Richardson is very brave and I commend her for being able to share her life with this book. I highly recommend this book to everyone it is very inspirational and everyone can learn that they have the inner strength to change there situation."

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