

# Warriors Don't Cry, A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High 40th Anniversary Edition



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The landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling, Brown v. Board of Education, brought the promise of integration to Little Rock, Arkansas, but it was hard-won for the nine black teenagers chosen to integrate Central High School in 1957. They ran a gauntlet flanked by a rampaging mob and a heavily armed Arkansas National Guard -- opposition so intense that soldiers from the elite 101st Airborne Division were called in to restore order. For Melba Beals and her eight friends those steps marked their transformation into reluctant warriors - on a battlefield that helped shape the civil rights movement. Warriors Don't Cry, drawn from Melba Beals' personal diaries, is a riveting true account of her junior year at Central High -- one filled with telephone threats, brigades of attacking mothers, rogue police, fireball and acid-throwing attacks, economic blackmail, and finally a price upon Melba's head. With the help of her English-teacher mother, her eight fellow warriors, and her gun-toting, Bible-and-Shakespeare-loving grandmother, Melba survived. "Dignity," said Grandmother India, "is a state of mind, just like freedom." And incredibly, from a year that would hold no sweet sixteen parties or school plays, Melba Beals emerged with indestructible faith, courage, strength, and hope.

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