

Book Review: Angela J. Hattery and Earl Smith, *African American Families Today: Myths and Realities*. Lanham, MD: Roman & Littlefield, 2012. ISBN: 978-1442213968 (Hardcover). 210 Pages. \$36.00

Reviewed by Thabiti Lewis¹

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Angela J. Hattery and Earl Smith's new book, *African American Families Today: Myths and Realities* (Roman & Littlefield, 2012) is a very straight honest read. The text implodes and explores myths and facts regarding the marriage status, education, economics, and social health of African American families and individuals in the age of Obama. They land firmly on the conclusion that all is not well and perhaps worse than before Barak Obama was elected President of the United States.

While television has consistently perpetuated the myth of widespread success among African American families, my own experiences suggest otherwise. As a college student, every Thursday night at 6:45pm we left our cubicles in the stacks of the library or rushed through dinner in time to dash over to The Commons to watch the weekly episode of "The Cosby Show." Attending a predominately white private college in upstate New York, we felt isolated and "The Cosby Show" not only brought most of the students together but allowed us to see people who looked like us on TV. At the time, the premise of the show left me in a conflicted mood each week. I was torn between two very different spectrums:

1. I had never met nor did I believe in the reality of such a Black family

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