Contents

Acknowledgments  ix

Introduction: Unhappy to Be Nappy  1

1. Why Hair Matters: Getting to the Roots  21
2. The Hair “Do’s” and “Don’ts” of Black Womanhood  41
3. Splitting Hairs: Power, Choice, and Femininity  69

5. Black Hair, 1990s Style  139

Conclusion  147

Appendix I: Methods, Methodology, and the Shaping of Hair Matters  157

Appendix II: Defining Black Hair and Hairstyling Practices  171

Appendix III: Interviewee Demographics  175

Notes  179

References  185

Index  193

About the Author  197

All illustrations appear as a group following p. 86.