

CBS Mornings

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8:13:14 a.m. [TEASE]

10 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Coming Up; Journalist April Ryan]

MICHELLE MILLER: Plus, journalist April Ryan who has covered the White House more than any other black woman in here will be here. She'll tell us about her book *Black Women Will Save the World: An Anthem*.

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8:41:19 a.m. [TEASE]

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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: White House Correspondent April Ryan]

NATE BURLESON: Coming up next, longtime White House correspondent April Ryan is in our Progressive Green Room to share her new book and why she believes black women will save the world.

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8:45:14 a.m.

4 minutes and 55 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: "Black Women Will Save the World"; WH Correspondent April Ryan on New Book & Struggles of Black Women]

MILLER: April Ryan is the longest serving black female White House correspondent ever. She joined the White House press corps back 25 years ago and has covered five presidencies. Ryan is the Washington bureau chief for theGrio. Her new book is called *Black Women Will Save the World: An Anthem*. In it, Ryan on her own experiences, shares conversations with black female leaders, and lays out the obstacles that many face and overcome. April Ryan, good morning.

APRIL RYAN: Good morning, Michelle. How are you?

MILLER: First, that's — the title in and of itself is a pretty tall order. How — how do black women do it?

BURLESON: Mmm.

MILLER: How have they done it?

BURLESON: Mmm.

MILLER: And why are you sharing the playbook?

RYAN: I'm sharing the playbook for one because now is the moment. We are seeing a change, a shift, and no one is marking the history. And I believe from the unique perch that I've been blessed to sit in for 25 years, I said I have to do it.

BURLESON: Mmm.

RYAN: We're at a moment where we have the first black woman Vice President, the first black woman on the U.S. Supreme Court. Women are everywhere, domestic policy adviser Susan Rice, Sheldona Young, Office of Management and Budget. I mean, the list goes on — and that's just government. And Karine Jean-Pierre in the white house briefing room, we cannot forget her. The list goes on.

BURLESON: Right.

RYAN: In the church house, the school house, government house, in your house.

BURLESON: Mmm.

RYAN: So, we have to do this. I feel like I'm in church with you.

BURLESON: Preach.

MILLER: Yeah, no. Vaccine making in the medical profession, Kizzmekia Corbett.

RYAN: Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, Moderna, and that was considered the number one vaccine in COVID. People need to understand we are now in spaces and places that we've never been before and no one is marking the moment, and I have to because we are exceptional. We've been lifting the load from the time we came to this nation to now and beyond and if you don't mark the moment, we will forget the moment, and the numbers will fall.

TONY DOKOUPIL: Your mother played a big role in this book. Can you talk about that and also talk about what your daughters should hopefully take away from that.

RYAN: Yeah. My mother was a pioneering woman herself. She enabled so many young black students at Morgan State University until her death at 42 and a half years. I don't care where in the world I go, people come — oh, I remember your mother, Miss Ryan. It touches my heart.

BURLESON: Yeah.

RYAN: My mother has been gone for about 15 years now. But she told me I could be and do anything I wanted to do, and I believed her. And now, I'm sitting here as the longest serving

black female White House correspondent in history —

BURLESON: Right.

RYAN: — because of her. The strength, the uplift, the nurturing, the recipe that they leave for us — I'm not just talking about cooking.

BURLESON: Yeah.

RYAN: I'm talking about the recipe for life.

BURLESON: Right.

RYAN: We hold up the home. We gird up our children, and we push them forward into a society that doesn't always love us. But when we come back, we know that we get instruction, love, and foundation —

BURLESON: Yeah.

RYAN: — from that woman who understands the haunts and the ghosts of the past and what lays ahead for the future.

BURLESON: Black women have mastered the art of juggling —

RYAN: Yes.

BURLESON: — while wearing the weight of the world on their shoulders.

BURLESON: There's a lot of black women that feel invisible.

RYAN: Yeah.

BURLESON: What is your advice? You mention occupying space. Some people feel invisible in these spaces, and then some women need advice on how to occupy space with your elbows out. What is your advice to them?

RYAN: I'm glad you brought that up. I have a great story in this book from Valerie Jarrett, former adviser to former President Barack Obama. Sometimes when she shows up in these major rooms with world leaders at the table, she's like, wait a minute, do I belong here? Yes, you belong — right. This woman who is — been a world leader herself —

BURLESON: For sure.

RYAN: — and she comes from a lineage of slavery, of the haunts and the ghost of slavery. And many of us walk into rooms and say, okay, I'm here. Shelly Chisolm said if you don't have a seat

at the table, bring a folding chair. We are convening those tables, have the folding chair on our back, but we're making solid chairs so we can sit in. And — and --

MILLER: You did it in the White House Press Briefing Room.

RYAN: But I stand on the shoulders of so many.

BURLESON: Yeah.

RYAN: I stand on the shoulders of Alice Dunagan and Ethel Payne, the late great Gwen Iffe. Nichelle — so many women that came before me and poured into me, so I could stand in some of the toughest times and the best of times. But I want to get back to this invisible piece and this is so poignant.

BURLESON: Yeah.

RYAN: Valerie Jarret gave me a story and said when we talk about invisibility, think about Michelle Obama.

BURLESON: That's right.

RYAN: When she was president of the United States, when they would go for their walks out in — beyond the White House, people would not recognize Michelle Obama. How can you not recognize —

BURLESON: How about that?

DOKOUPIL: Wow.

RYAN: — Michelle Obama invisibility?

BURLESON: Yeah.

MILLER: Right.

BURLESON: April Ryan, we appreciate you. Just like this cover, you deserve your flowers, too, as well.

RYAN: Thank you.

BURLESON: Black Women Will Save the *World*, it goes on sale tomorrow.