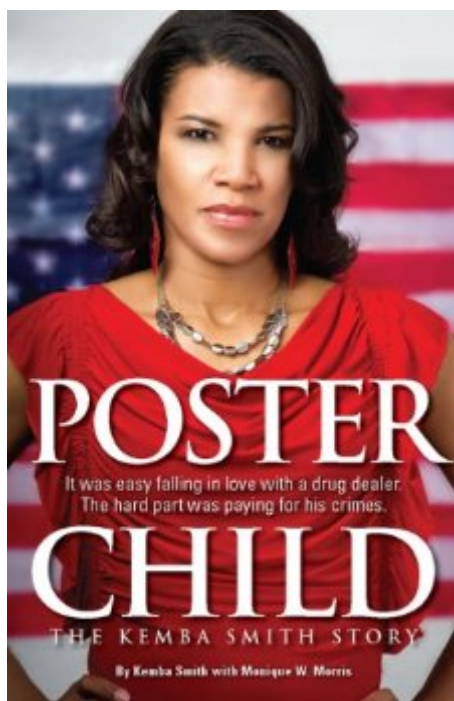


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# Poster Child, The Kemba Smith Story



## Synopsis

In this long-awaited memoir, Kemba Smith shares her dramatic story, as it has never been told. *Poster Child: The Kemba Smith Story* chronicles how she went from college student to drug dealer's girlfriend to domestic violence victim to federal prisoner. Kemba shares her story of how making poor choices blinded by love and devotion can have long-term consequences. In 1994, Kemba was sentenced to a mandatory 24 1/2 years in federal prison, with no chance for parole, despite being a first-time, non-violent offender. Fortunately, she regained her freedom when President Clinton granted her executive clemency in December 2000 after having served 6 1/2 years. Kemba's case drew support from across the nation and the world. Often being labeled the "poster child" for the campaign to reverse a disturbing trend in the rise of lengthy sentences for first-time, non-violent drug offenders, Kemba's story has been featured on CNN, Court TV, "Nightline," "Judge Hatchett," "The Early Morning Show" and a host of other television programs. In addition, Kemba's story has been featured in several publications, such as *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times* and *Emerge*, *JET*, *Essence*, *Glamour*, and *People* magazines.

**Author Bio:** Kemba Smith Pradia is a wife, mother, national motivational speaker, consultant, author, and criminal justice advocate. She has received numerous awards and recognition for her courage and determination to educate the public about the devastating social, economic, and political consequences of current drug policies. Ultimately, Kemba knows there is a lesson in each experience in life, and she has embraced her experience, learned from it, and is now using that experience to teach others. For more information about Kemba, visit [www.kembasmith.com](http://www.kembasmith.com).

Monique W. Morris is a researcher, author, and social justice advocate who has nearly twenty years of professional and volunteer experience as a scholar advocate in the areas of civil rights and social justice. Monique is the CEO of MWM Consulting Group, LLC, a research and technical assistance firm that advances concepts of fairness, diversity, and inclusion. She is the author of *Too Beautiful for Words* and thirty-five published articles, book chapters, and other documents on social justice issues. She is also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and a regular contributor to MSNBC's *TheGrio.com*. For more information about Monique, visit [www.moniquewmorris.com](http://www.moniquewmorris.com).

**keywords:** Kemba Smith, Clinton Pardon/Clemency, Criminal Justice Issues, Mandatory Minimum Sentencing, Drug Dealer Girlfriend, Women in Prison, First-time offender, Domestic Violence, Women's Issues, Teen Choices/Consequences

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## Customer Reviews

This is a book that can be read by anyone. I think students in high school and college should especially read it. Between 16-21, you feel like that bad things only happen to other people. This tells the story of a "sheltered" young lady who goes off to college and gets caught up with being social and material things. She falls in love with a man who is both a Romeo and a drug dealer.

As a father with a college age daughter, I think this should be a must read for young women who put their entire trust in young men, at times, allowing their common sense to play second fiddle to their heart. In this woeful story of blind love and horrendous sentencing guidelines for non-violent drug offenders, Ms. Smith learns a horrible lesson when bad decisions, bad men, and a cold, heartless legal system come together.

Great book & a fast read. I highly recommend itâ especially if you're not personally familiar with the drug war or the criminal justice system. This is a huge issue that is not being addressed. Feminists, don't miss this memoir.

Awesome read. Definitely an accurate portrayal of what was and may still be happening to the girlfriends of drug dealers. Although the girlfriends do know about the crimes their drug dealing

boyfriends commit, the sentences are outrageous. Good read and very informative.

I downloaded this book because of a referral from one of my friends. This was an outstanding book to read especially for teenagers who are going off to colleges/universities as well as adult reading. The book is well written telling of her experiences. Once I started to read the book, it was hard to put down. Her amazing turn-a-round in life is amazing thanks to her family and friends. She stated in the book that she wanted to tell her story in her own words and in her own time. I think she did a remarkably job. I would recommend this book highly.

I gave this a five star because her story is so real is so real to many of us out here in this world particularly because myself went through a similar situation in my early 70s growing up before the age of 18 so I felt real connected to her with from the same hometown the same area went to some of the same places so I understood what she was coming from I understood how easily one can get caught up it's a must read for every African-American and white to read understand take a stand and I commend her for taking a stand

Excellent! All young women should read this book, hopefully with a mature mentor so that subtle messages are not missed. A real primer emphasizing that "formal" education is only one component of education. Knowledge, wisdom and intuition are tools that need to be in the tool belt of a young woman.

I liked this book, I read about this young lady years ago and wondered what had become of her. This book tells an important story and illustrates some very important points, the love, concern, and consideration between good parents and a child is important and substantial, while the parents made no excuses or passed no real blame on anyone except those that were directly culpable for their actions, it does illustrate the uneven sentencing guidelines those have decided to get tough on drug culture have insisted on imposing. I appreciated the enduring love and respect for her parents despite the fact that she insisted on traveling down the wrong path many times, and then returning like the prodigal child. This book brings a very important lesson for fathers and daughters, for mothers and daughters, for daughters and sons. Our prison system is harsh, and the road that leads to it not extremely for some people. This book does illustrate some warnings for those with children who have some esteem issues, crowd acceptance issues. This sort of thing can happen to you.

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