

# 22

## Twenty-two Books You Should Read

List compiled by: Dr. Constantine Papadopoulos  
Email: cpapams@hotmail.com

1. **What The Dog Says, by Malcolm Gladwell.**

You will learn what millions of readers have learned from his other books. The uncommonness of common sense is made clear when you read this book.

2. **The Other Side of Me, by Sidney Sheldon**

A personal story of a poor Jewish child from Chicago, shy and without a family. He became the most prolific writer of Hollywood and the creator of shows every American grows up watching, including you. It wasn't easy, but he made it.

3. **Broken Music, by Sting**

Out of a broken heart from a broken family, Sting is today one of the most recorded and listened to musicians. Read about how this genius explains that his only way to communicate and be understood is through his lyrics and his music.

4. **Bono: In Conversation with Michka Assayas, by Michka Assayas**

Learn how this globally known singer meets with Presidents, Prime Ministers and corporate leaders to help reduce the debt of poor nations. There is perhaps no other entertainer which causes influential people to stop and listen as Bono does.

5. **You Learn By Living, by Eleanor Roosevelt**

The most honest portrayal of human challenges and the reason why we live and learn. Her articles were read by millions. Her book was written for her grandchildren. Sit and listen to a woman who writes with the love of a grandmother in every expression of advice for a lifetime.

6. **A Brief History of Time, by Stephen Hawking**

Have you ever imagined what it would be like to listen to a genius, a theoretical genius. With his physical life beaten by a debilitating illness, Stephen Hawking teaches us that no spirit can be stopped of its intended purpose. He makes complex ideas understandable, a bit of genius in and of itself.

7. **The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela, by Nelson Mandela**

A living hero. 27 years of prison didn't break him, but made him stronger. His life story makes every person who reads this book stronger. It is simply a book you cannot miss. You will also see what a racist society is, South Africa, and wonder at times whether the book is talking about our country or South Africa. No book has clued me into racism and the suffering that it causes than this book, and I'm talking about in *our* country. Just as we see ourselves better in other people, and how we learn about our own culture while we're visiting another culture, this book will teach you more about America through its description of South Africa than any other book.

8. **The Eye of the Prophet, by Kahlil Gibran**

A middle-easterner who emigrated to Los Angeles and created works that are indeed in a class of brilliance all their own. If I were to be any writer and thinker, I'd be Kahlil Gibran. Then learn what they did with his estate, squabbled over it and turned it into such a mess that his country of birth had to take it over and duly let it go to waste. A lesson in how sometimes (often) we forget the "oxygen" that gives us life. If you love language, do not miss this book. It will redefine your standards of what beautiful literature is.

9. **The Meaning of Everything, by Simon Winchester**

A biography of the first Oxford English Dictionary. Read this amazing story of a complicated process that spans over 100 years before it produced the authoritative English dictionary. Learn something about what the English have given us, beside an Empire that has been demonized, and rightfully so. The English that we use to make our life possible is their contribution to us. It's easy to get lost in Empires and forget the positive contribution that the people of other countries have made to us. This book teaches that lesson.

10. **Founding Mothers, by Cokie Roberts**

Allow yourself to honor the ladies in our lives. Cokie's passion for setting the record straight by including the brilliant women who made major contributions to their husbands (our First Presidents) will move you, even if her politics don't (they don't, for me).

11. **Triumph, The Untold Story of Jesse Owens, by Jesse Owens**

Don't miss this book and a story that seems like a long time ago, but is absolutely magnificent in how it shares a young man's only hope at helping his mother, his only active parent. Jesse Owens is the first Jackie Robinson and the first Michael

Jordan. It is absolutely a story that you cannot miss.

**12. Benjamin Franklin, by Walter Isaacson**

This story teaches us that if we have many gifts, we should pursue each and all of them. Don't confuse choosing a major and living a life that expresses all of your gifts. This book will teach you to do both. Where would we be if Benjamin Franklin decided that he should only do one thing well? Read this book to understand this important lesson.

**13. Wisdom of the Crowds, by James Sorowiecki**

You're ready for the world of ideas and how they influence the places where you work and the philosophies of people who will be your boss. The crowd is wiser than the brightest person in the group is the assertion of this book. Read this book and the evidence that proves this assertion beyond a reasonable doubt.

**14. Latticework, by Robert Hagstrom**

Where are most Noble Prize winners assembled? In Los Alamos, New Mexico. What do they do? They study and try to explain in models for their clients like JPMorgan Chase Bank, The New York Stock Exchange, The United States Government, Ecologists and others. This will be your first book on complexity. If you like ideas, then you must read this book. Learn what great minds do with their energy.

**15. True Blue: To Protect and Serve, by Lt. Randy Sutton**

No other book will gain your respect for the neighbor who became a police officer and who stands between you and the bad guys. My respect for officers and an understanding of their life and work was learned through this book. Don't miss it. I remember thinking, "Everyone should read this book. And one about nurses, teachers, priests, etc."

**16. Bouncing Back, by Joan Rivers**

I don't know if there's another life story so heart-breaking and yet so demonstrative of the resiliency of the human spirit. It is truly a story of how complex life is and can become. How we grow and develop and what that means for the decisions we make and their consequences. No other book arrested and questioned my thoughts about the complexity of life than this book did.

**17. Rodney Dangerfield, It's Not Easy Being Me, by Rodney Dangerfield**

Molested as a young man, poor, and disadvantaged, he teaches us that laughter sometimes is the only way to deal with the things that aren't supposed to happen when they do. It is a story about how we cope with the stuff that we wish never happened to us. I simply do not look at comedians the same anymore after this book.

**18. Churchill, by James Humes**

This award-winning life-story of a great leader during a great moment in history is an important look into a life that was less than perfect, which was then turned into a legend and a global victory. Speech impediment, blended nationalities (his Mother American, his Father British), knew his Father only through newspaper clippings, and loved and raised by a nanny whose picture he kept on his desk throughout his life and during the coordination of the British effort during the last global war, make Churchill's story the one you read this summer.

**19. No Future Without Forgiveness, by Desmond Tutu**

If I had the choice of one book to take with me and that was all I could take, I'd take this book. It is simply the most important book about healing, and saying sorry, and making it right that perhaps has ever been written. It will teach you how to apologize and what to expect and ask for when people apologize to you. This unknown wisdom of how to say "I'm sorry, and let me make it right," is simply important for the relationships in our life. You want power in ideas? You'll find no other book with greater power.

**20. Billy Crystal, 700 Sundays, by Billy Crystal**

Learn how the people who make us laugh most have cried so much and how we can better understand them and ourselves with the stories that they tell. You will learn that every human being (that includes you) wants to be understood, beyond anything and any conspired and superficial need that you believe as an instinctual want, you and I, more than anything else, want to be understood. Laugh, cry, and learn with Billy Crystal. He honors his Father in this story in a way that is moving.

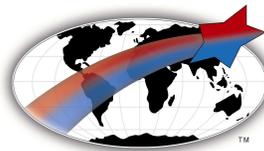
**21. Teacher Man, by Frank McCourt**

An immigrant, poor, son of a drunkard father who became an English teacher in New York City for 30 years. Beautifully written with powerful ideas. This story includes his time in Ireland and is really the story of the homes of most immigrants. Out of suffering, he made sense for him and his students, and now for

us in this life-story.

**22. Living History, by Hillary Rodham Clinton**

A woman who stayed together with her husband when everyone told her to leave. Her anger and disappointment are in this book as is her incredible intellect and passion for her husband, family, women's rightful place in the world, and nation. She is simply and unequivocally a GIANT in our nation. We would be hard-pressed to find someone with her accomplishments, in either man or woman. The only reason she hasn't ascended to the level of a Lincoln and King is that as a nation we're not all-on-board with the equality issue (reality?). Hillary Clinton goes on, anyhow. In this way she is a model of 'Do it. Do it because it's right; do it, not because it will be popular, but because it is your belief.' I love this book for the strength it demonstrates in our Secretary of State. Read it.



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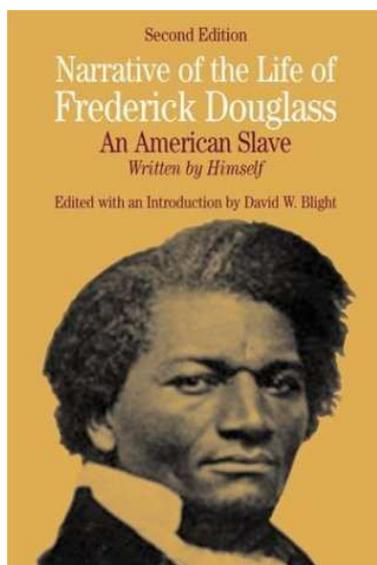
5448 N. Kimball Ave., Chicago, IL 60625  
Phone: 773-463-6374 Fax: 773-463-0429  
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# Biographies and Memoirs You Should Read

List compiled by: Dr. Samuel Betances

Email: samuel@betances.com

## Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave By: Frederick Douglass



### Review

Review of the 1st edition 'This is a book that should be on the reading list of every course on American history or literature...with its excellent notes, bibliography and appendices, this supersedes other versions available in paperback.' - Adam Lively, Times Educational Supplement

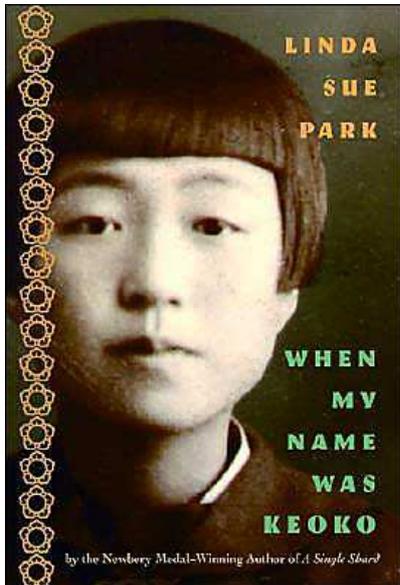
### Product Description

This second edition of Douglass's *Narrative* reprints this classic document together with speeches and letters, all in a volume designed for undergraduate students. An extensive introduction places the *Narrative* in its historical and literary contexts with annotations on needed background.

### About the Author

**David W. Blight** is Professor of History at Yale University; he taught at Amherst College for thirteen years. His scholarly work is concentrated on nineteenth-century America, with a special interest in the Civil War and Reconstruction, African-American history, and American intellectual and cultural history. He has lectured widely on Frederick Douglass and served as a consultant to documentary films on African-American history, including the PBS television film *Frederick Douglass: When the Lion Wrote History*. His book, *Frederick Douglass' Civil War: Keeping Faith in Jubilee* is an award-winning intellectual biography of Douglass and a study of the meaning of the Civil War. His work *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* was awarded the Bancroft Prize in American History, the Lincoln Prize, and the Frederick Douglass Prize, as well as four awards from the Organization of American Historians. He is the author of numerous essays on abolitionism and African American intellectual history, and his latest work is a collection of essays entitled *Beyond the Battlefield: Race, Memory, and the Civil War*.

## When My Name Was Keoko By: Linda Sue Park



### Amazon.com Review

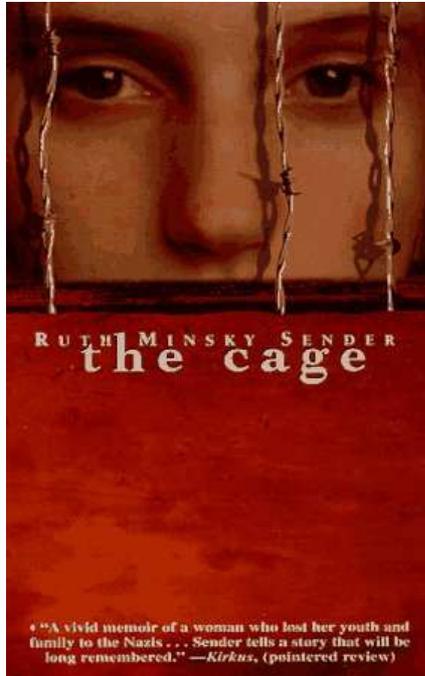
Inspired by her own family's stories of living in South Korea during the Japanese occupation in the years preceding World War II, Newbery Medal-winning author Linda Sue Park chronicles the compelling story of two siblings, 10-year-old Sun-hee and 13-year-old Tae-yul, and their battle to maintain their identity and dignity during one of Korea's most difficult and turbulent times. In alternating first-person chapters, they relate their family's troubles under the strict fascist regime. The Kim family is stripped of their cultural symbols, only permitted to learn Japanese history and language, and forced to convert their names to Japanese. Sun-hee, now Keoko, struggles to reconcile her Korean home life with her Japanese school and friends, while Tae-yul, now Nobuo, attempts to convert his growing anger into a more positive passion for flight and airplanes. Both are worried for their uncle, whom they discover

is printing an underground Korean resistance paper. When Sun-hee inadvertently puts her uncle's life in danger, she sets in motion a chain of events that results in her brother volunteering as a pilot for the Japanese near the end of WWII. While Sun-hee and her parents wait in breathless uncertainty to hear from Tae-yul, the war rushes to a close, leaving Korea's destiny hanging in the balance. This well-researched historical novel is accompanied by a thoughtful author's note that explains what happened to Korea and families like the Kims after WWII and a bibliography to entice interested young readers into learning more about a topic largely unknown to American audiences. (Ages 10 to 14) --Jennifer Hubert --This text refers to the [Hardcover](#) edition.

### About the Author

The 2002 Newbery Medal Winner of *A Single Shard*, Linda Sue Park has written professionally for years, but it was not until she delved into writing for younger readers that she discovered and connected with her Korean heritage. Ms. Park earned degrees in English Literature from Stanford University, Trinity College, Dublin, and the University of London. She lives in New York with her husband and two children. Her other acclaimed titles include: *The Kite Fighters*, *Seesaw Girl*, and coming this spring, *When My Name Was Keoko*. --This text refers to the [Hardcover](#) edition.

**The Cage** By: **Ruth Minsky Sender**



**From Publishers Weekly**

Sender writes a searing, memorable story of her years in the Lodz ghetto and in Auschwitz. Ages 10-up.

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**From School Library Journal**

Grade 9 Up This reflective Holocaust memoir presents a series of brief scenes from 1939, when the author was 12 and Hitler invaded Poland, through the Russian liberation of the Mittelsteine labor camp in 1945. Like many other survivors of the Holocaust who have written accounts, Sender presents harrowing descriptions of life and death in the ghetto and concentration camps, and gives fervent testimonials to the love, strength, and dignity that helped make her survival possible. However, this telling stands out in other, equally important respects. Riva's widowed mother is arrested early

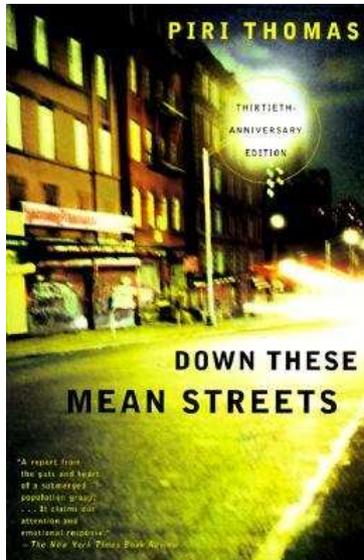
on, and much of the first part of the book concerns the then 16-year-old's courageous efforts to preserve a family with her younger brothers. Later, after a brief ordeal in Auschwitz, Riva is transported to a slave labor camp, where she becomes seriously ill. Remarkably, a camp doctor is able to convince the S.S. commandante that Riva should be treated in a hospital outside the camp. This extraordinary situation allows Riva, and readers, rare glimpses of wartime German civilian life, and of the small sparks of compassion and humanity still present in her Nazi captors. Older students with previous knowledge of the subject will find Sender's narrative moving and thought provoking. But because of the book's sparse, impressionistic writing style, and its highly selective content, *The Cage* should be purchased only as a supplement to well developed and much used Holocaust collections. Ruth Horowitz, Notre Dame Academy Girls High School, Los Angeles

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**Product Description**

From the German invasion of Poland in 1939 to the liberation of her concentration camp in 1945, the author chronicles an adolescence shaped by the horrors of the Holocaust but strengthened by the force of her own will.

## Down These Mean Streets      By: Piri Thomas



### Amazon.com Review

The 30th anniversary edition of this classic memoir about growing up in Spanish Harlem includes an afterword reminding us that its streets are even meaner now, thanks to crack cocaine and the dismantling of government poverty programs. As a dark-skinned Puerto Rican, born in 1928, Piri Thomas faced with painful immediacy the absurd contradictions of America's racial attitudes (among people of all colors) in a time of wrenching social change. Three decades have not dimmed the luster of his jazzy prose, rich in Hispanic rhythms and beat-generation slang.

### Review

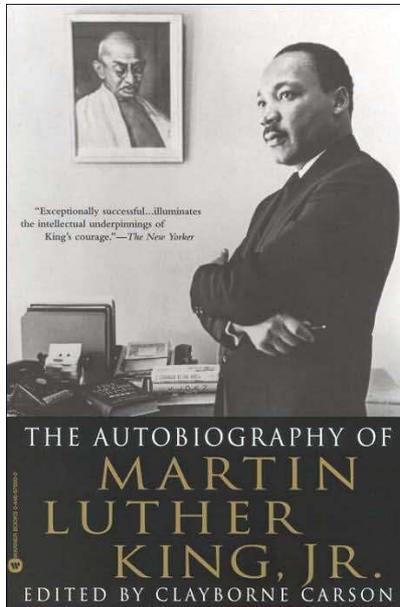
"Piri Thomas describes the passionate, painful search to validate his manhood...He has done it all in Harlem's mean streets and gone on from machismo to manhood, acquiring during the journey an understanding of man."--The Nation -- *Review*

### Product Description

Thirty years ago Piri Thomas made literary history with this lacerating, lyrical memoir of his coming of age on the streets of Spanish Harlem. Here was the testament of a born outsider: a Puerto Rican in English-speaking America; a dark-skinned morenito in a family that refused to acknowledge its African blood. Here was an unsparing document of Thomas's plunge into the deadly consolations of drugs, street fighting, and armed robbery--a descent that ended when the twenty-two-year-old Piri was sent to prison for shooting a cop.

As he recounts the journey that took him from adolescence in El Barrio to a lock-up in Sing Sing to the freedom that comes of self-acceptance, faith, and inner confidence, Piri Thomas gives us a book that is as exultant as it is harrowing and whose every page bears the irrepressible rhythm of its author's voice. Thirty years after its first appearance, this classic of manhood, marginalization, survival, and transcendence is available in an anniversary edition with a new Introduction by the author.

## The Autobiography of Martin Luther King Jr. Edited By: Clayborne Carson



### Amazon.com Review

Celebrated Stanford University historian Clayborne Carson is the director and editor of the Martin Luther King Papers Project; with thousands of King's essays, notes, letters, speeches, and sermons at his disposal, Carson has organized King's writings into a posthumous autobiography. In an early student essay, King prophetically penned: "We cannot have an enlightened democracy with one great group living in ignorance.... We cannot have a nation orderly and sound with one group so ground down and thwarted that it is almost forced into unsocial attitudes and crime." Such statements, made throughout King's career, are skillfully woven together into a coherent narrative of the quest for social justice. The autobiography delves, for example, into the philosophical training King received at Morehouse College, Crozer Theological Seminary, and Boston University, where he

consolidated the teachings of Afro-American theologian Benjamin Mays with the philosophies of Locke, Rousseau, Gandhi, and Thoreau. Through King's voice, the reader intimately shares in his trials and triumphs, including the Montgomery Boycott, the 1963 "I Have a Dream Speech," the Selma March, and the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize. In one of his last speeches, King reminded his audience that "in the final analysis, God does not judge us by the separate incidents or the separate mistakes that we make, but by the total bent of our lives." Carson's skillful editing has created an original argument in King's favor that draws directly from the source, illuminating the circumstances of King's life without deifying his person. --Eugene Holley Jr. --*This text refers to the [Hardcover](#) edition.*

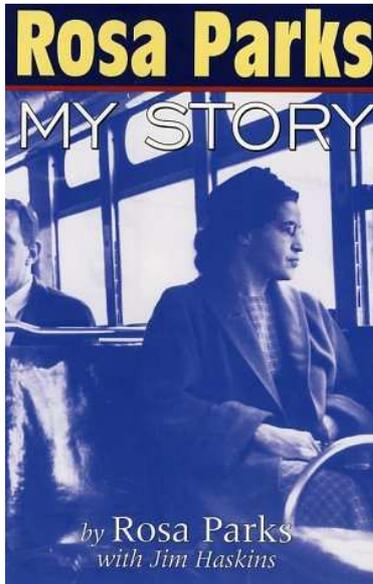
### Product Description

Clayborne Carson has created a book that remarkably approximates a self-portrait of Martin Luther King Jr. Delving into all aspects of this man's life, the work covers his boyhood, his education, and his emergence as a leader. From his relationships with his wife and children, to his dealings with the important political figures of the era, this book defines the history of a genuine hero.

### About the Author

The editor, Clayborne Carson, Ph.D, is the author and editor of several books on the civil rights struggle in the United States. In 1985, Dr Carson was invited by the King family to direct the long-term project of editing and publishing the papers of Dr Martin Luther King Jr. --*This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.*

## Rosa Parks: My Story By: Rosa Parks



### From Publishers Weekly

"The simplicity and candor of this courageous woman's voice make [her life story] even more moving and dramatic," wrote PW in a starred review. Ages 10-up.

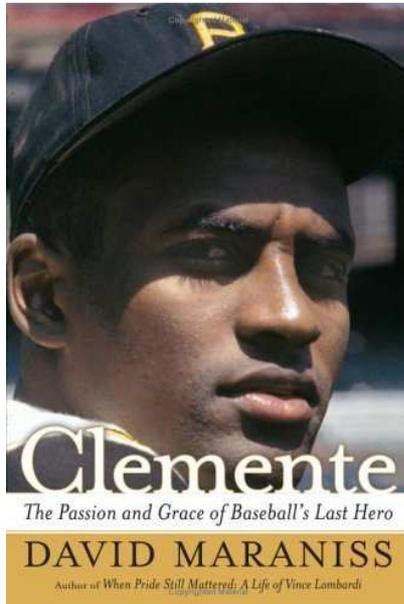
*- even more moving and dramatic," wrote PW in a starred review. Ages 10-up.*

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### Product Description

Rosa Parks is best known for the day she refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus, sparking the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott. Yet there is much more to her story than this one act of defiance. In this straightforward, compelling autobiography, Rosa Parks talks candidly about the civil rights movement and her active role in it. Her dedication is inspiring; her story is unforgettable. "The simplicity and candor of this courageous woman's voice makes these compelling events even more moving and dramatic." — *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

## Clemente: The Passion and Grace of Baseball's Last Hero By: David Maraniss



### From Publishers Weekly

*Starred Review.* If ever a baseball player were deemed worthy of canonization, right fielder Roberto Clemente might be the one. Jackie Robinson may have suffered greater hardships during his career, but Clemente's nobility, charity and determination make him far more appropriate for a postage stamp than a Nike commercial. After 18 distinguished seasons, the Pirate star with the astonishing throwing arm died in a 1972 plane crash while en route to deliver relief supplies to Nicaraguan earthquake victims. Considering the potential for hagiography, *Washington Post* staffer and Clinton biographer Maraniss sticks to the facts in this respectful and dispassionate account. Clemente is a deceptively easy subject for a biographer: his acquired halo tinges past events and the accounts of his colleagues (although close friend Vic Power is frequently quoted to both admiring and frank effect). Clemente wasn't entirely virtuous—he had a temper and was sometimes

given to pouting—but his altruism appears to have been a genuine product of his impoverished Puerto Rican upbringing. Maraniss deftly balances baseball and loftier concerns like racism; he presents a nuanced picture of a ballplayer more complicated than the encomiums would suggest, while still wholly deserving them. Photos.

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*This text refers to the [Hardcover](#) edition.*

### Product Description

On New Year's Eve 1972, following eighteen magnificent seasons in the major leagues, Roberto Clemente died a hero's death, killed in a plane crash as he attempted to deliver food and medical supplies to Nicaragua after a devastating earthquake. David Maraniss now brings the great baseball player brilliantly back to life in *Clemente: The Passion and Grace of Baseball's Last Hero*, a book destined to become a modern classic. Much like his acclaimed biography of Vince Lombardi, *When Pride Still Mattered*, Maraniss uses his narrative sweep and meticulous detail to capture the myth and a real man.

Anyone who saw Clemente, as he played with a beautiful fury, will never forget him. He was a work of art in a game too often defined by statistics. During his career with the Pittsburgh Pirates, he won four batting titles and led his team to championships in 1960 and 1971, getting a hit in all fourteen World Series games in which he played. His career ended with three-thousand hits, the magical three-thousandth coming in his final at-bat, and he and the immortal Lou Gehrig are the only players to have the five-year waiting period waived so they could be enshrined in the Hall of Fame immediately after their deaths.

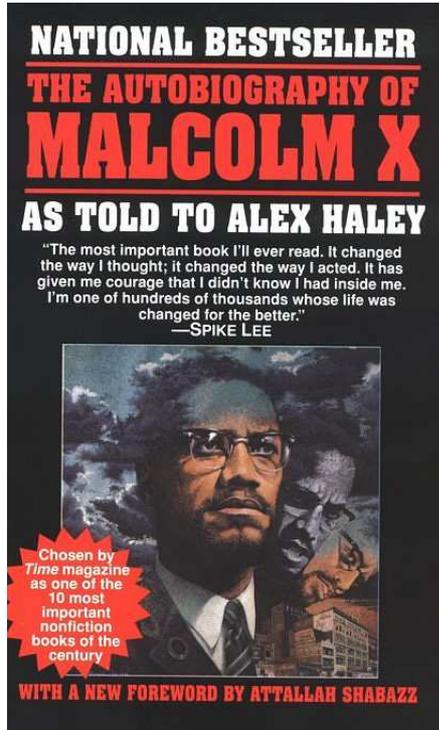
There is delightful baseball here, including thrilling accounts of the two World Series victories of Clemente's underdog Pittsburgh Pirates, but this is far more than just another baseball book. Roberto Clemente was that rare athlete who rose above sports to become a symbol of larger themes. Born near the canebrakes of rural Carolina, Puerto Rico, on August 18, 1934, at a time when there were no blacks or Puerto Ricans playing organized ball in the United States, Clemente went on to become the greatest Latino player in the major leagues. He was, in a sense, the Jackie Robinson of the Spanish-speaking world, a ballplayer of determination, grace, and dignity who paved the way and set the highest standard for waves of Latino players who followed in later generations and who now dominate the game.

The Clemente that Maraniss evokes was an idiosyncratic character who, unlike so many modern athletes, insisted that his responsibilities extended beyond the playing field. In his final years, his motto was that if you have a chance to help others and fail to do so, you are wasting your time on this earth. Here, in the final chapters, after capturing Clemente's life and times, Maraniss retraces his final days, from the earthquake to the accident, using newly uncovered documents to reveal the corruption and negligence that led the unwitting hero on a mission of mercy toward his untimely death as an uninspected, overloaded plane plunged into the sea. --*This text refers to an alternate [Paperback](#) edition.*

## **About the Author**

**David Maraniss** is an associate editor at *The Washington Post*. He is the winner of the 1993 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting and has been a Pulitzer finalist two other times for his journalism and again for *They Marched Into Sunlight*, a book about Vietnam and the sixties. The author also of bestselling works on Bill Clinton, Vince Lombardi, and Roberto Clemente, Maraniss is a fellow of the Society of American Historians. He and his wife, Linda, live in Washington, DC, and Madison, Wisconsin. Visit the author at [www.davidmaraniss.com](http://www.davidmaraniss.com). --*This text refers to an alternate [Paperback](#) edition.*

## The Autobiography of Malcom X



### Amazon.com Review

Malcolm X's searing memoir belongs on the small shelf of great autobiographies. The reasons are many: the blistering honesty with which he recounts his transformation from a bitter, self-destructive petty criminal into an articulate political activist, the continued relevance of his militant analysis of white racism, and his emphasis on self-respect and self-help for African Americans. And there's the vividness with which he depicts black popular culture--try as he might to criticize those lindy hops at Boston's Roseland dance hall from the perspective of his Muslim faith, he can't help but make them sound pretty wonderful. These are but a few examples. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* limns an archetypal journey from ignorance and despair to knowledge and spiritual awakening. When Malcolm tells coauthor Alex Haley, "People don't realize how a man's whole life can be changed by one book," he voices the central belief underpinning every attempt to set down a personal story as an example for others. Although many believe his ethic was directly opposed to Martin Luther King Jr.'s during the civil rights struggle of the '60s,

the two were not so different. Malcolm may have displayed a most un-Christian distaste for loving his enemies, but he understood with King that love of God and love of self are the necessary first steps on the road to freedom. --Wendy Smith

### Product Description

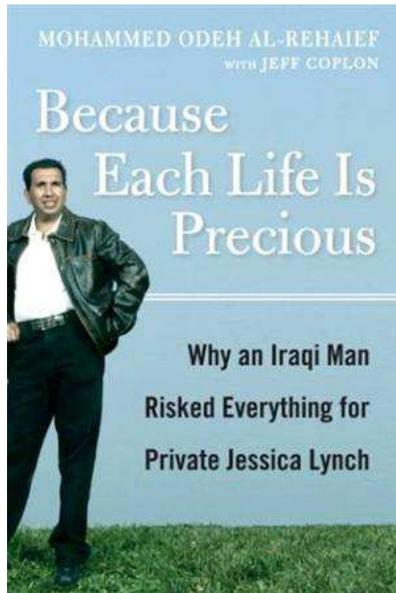
If there was any one man who articulated the anger, the struggle, and the beliefs of African Americans in the 1960s, that man was Malxolm X. His AUTOBIOGRAPHY is now an established classic of modern America, a book that expresses like none other the crucial truth about our times.

"Extraordinary. A brilliant, painful, important book."  
THE NEW YORKTIMES

### About the Author

Considered the world's cheif authority on Shakespeare, Harold Bloom is now in his 46th year of teaching at Yale University. His latest book *How to Read and Why* joins a prodigious literary output which includes the editorship of this flagship study guide series. --*This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.*

## **Because Each Life is Precious: Why an Iraqi Man Risked Everything for Private Jessica Lynch** By: Mohammed Odeh Al-Rehaief



### **Review**

"Genuinely riveting." (Newsweek )

"A remarkable story." (Wall Street Journal ) --*This text refers to the [Hardcover](#) edition.*

### **Product Description**

For thirty-three-year-old Mohammed al-Rehaief, this decision - - whether to risk his life and everything he held dear to save Private First Class Jessica Lynch, an American soldier he did not know -- was more than the everyday reckoning with death that permeates wartime. It was the culmination of a life spent at odds with the repressive regime that held his country.

Mohammed's story is the tale of what it was like to come of age in a society where violence and betrayal were everyday events, where one in five adult males worked for the state's security apparatus, where a president-for-life demanded absolute loyalty and adulation. Despite his affluent upbringing and a well-connected uncle, Mohammed was hardly sheltered from the surreal cruelties of Iraq. He was arrested and beaten for owning a satellite dish. His young daughter lost a lung to misdiagnosis and unnecessary surgery. An idolized cousin was hanged for joining an Islamic political group. A favorite teacher was carted away for making subversive statements and was never seen again.

Yet even as he navigates a culture tarnished by brutality and corruption, Mohammed also reveals unexpected sides of Iraq, scenes of surprising tenderness and stubborn generosity. He writes with insight and humor about the Iraqi schools, the vagaries of its divorce law, the poignant dynamic between its fathers and sons -- between tradition and jolting change.

As Mohammed offers his powerful perspective on the most publicized story of this controversial war, he emerges as an unlikely hero, a complex and charming character whose values transcend ideology: honor, compassion, and an unshakable belief in the sanctity of human life.

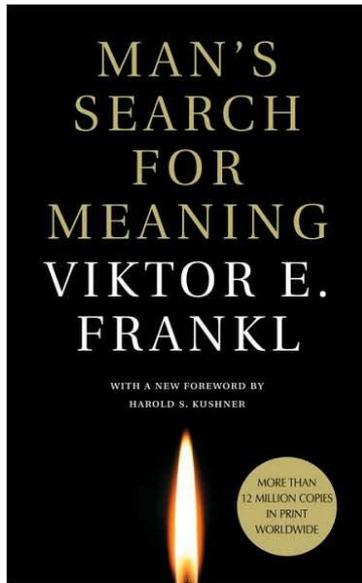
--*This text refers to the [Hardcover](#) edition.*

### **About the Author**

Mohammed Odeh al-Rehaief is a 33-year-old Iraqi attorney who plunged into the middle of the biggest story of the recent war in Iraq: the rescue of Pvt. Jessica Lynch. Granted asylum in the

U.S. in April for his extraordinary act of courage, Mohammed is now employed by The Livingston Group, a lobbying firm in Washington, DC. He resides outside the city with his wife, Iman, and their six-year-old daughter, Abir. --*This text refers to the [Hardcover](#) edition.*

## Man's Search for Meaning     By: Viktor E. Frankl



### Amazon.com Review

*Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor E. Frankl is among the most influential works of psychiatric literature since Freud. The book begins with a lengthy, austere, and deeply moving personal essay about Frankl's imprisonment in Auschwitz and other concentration camps for five years, and his struggle during this time to find reasons to live. The second part of the book, called "Logotherapy in a Nutshell," describes the psychotherapeutic method that Frankl pioneered as a result of his experiences in the concentration camps. Freud believed that sexual instincts and urges were the driving force of humanity's life; Frankl, by contrast, believes that man's deepest desire is to search for meaning and purpose. Frankl's logotherapy, therefore, is much more compatible with Western religions than Freudian psychotherapy. This is a fascinating, sophisticated, and very human book. At times, Frankl's personal

and professional discourses merge into a style of tremendous power. "Our generation is realistic, for we have come to know man as he really is," Frankl writes. "After all, man is that being who invented the gas chambers of Auschwitz; however, he is also that being who entered those gas chambers upright, with the Lord's Prayer or the Shema Yisrael on his lips."

### Product Description

Now in its 60th year -- the landmark bestseller by the great Viennese psychiatrist remembered for his tremendous impact on humanity

Internationally renowned psychiatrist Viktor E. Frankl endured years of unspeakable horror in Nazi death camps. During, and partly because of, his suffering, Dr. Frankl developed a revolutionary approach to psychotherapy known as logotherapy. At the core of his theory is the belief that man's primary motivational force is his search for meaning.

Cited in Dr. Frankl's *New York Times* obituary in 1997 as "an enduring work of survival literature," *Man's Search for Meaning* is more than the story of Viktor E. Frankl's triumph: It is a remarkable blend of science and humanism and "a compelling introduction to the most significant psychological movement of our day" (Gordon W. Allport).

### About the Author

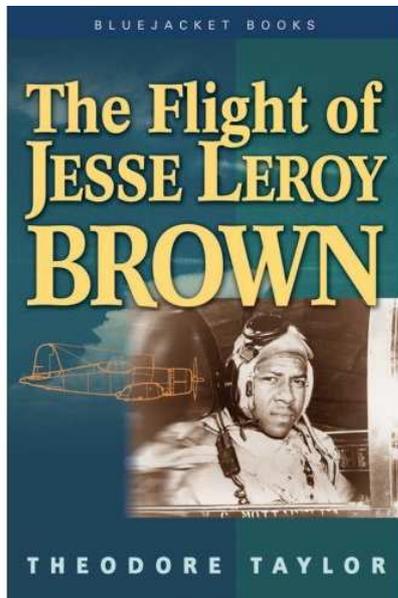
**Viktor E. Frankl** is Professor of Neurology and Psychiatry at the University of Vienna Medical School and Distinguished Professor of Logotherapy at the U.S. International University. He is

the founder of what has come to be called the Third Viennese School of Psychotherapy (after Freud's psychoanalysis and Adler's individual psychology) -- the school of logotherapy.

Born in 1905, Dr. Frankl received the degrees of Doctor of Medicine and Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Vienna. During World War II he spent three years at Auschwitz, Dachau and other concentration camps.

Dr. Frankl first published in 1924 in the *International Journal of Psychoanalysis* and has since published twenty-six books, which have been translated into nineteen languages, including Japanese and Chinese. He has been a visiting professor at Harvard, Duquesne and Southern Methodist Universities. Honorary Degrees have been conferred upon him by Loyola University in Chicago, Edgecliff College, Rockford College and Mount Mary College, as well as by universities in Brazil and Venezuela. He has been a guest lecturer at universities throughout the world and has made fifty-one lecture tours throughout the United States alone. He is President of the Austrian Medical Society of Psychotherapy. --*This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.*

**The Flight of Jesse Leroy Brown**      **By: Theodore Taylor**



**From Publishers Weekly**

In the late 1940s, when every aspiring black pilot had heard of the army's Tuskegee program, Jesse Leroy Brown set his sights on becoming a navy aviator. An outstanding student and top athlete, the 17-year-old's ambition was met with a combination of incredulity and resistance. Yet, at a time when Jim Crow laws were rampant, Brown managed to break the color barrier to become the first black U.S. Navy pilot. Taylor (*The Cay*) puts his considerable narrative skills to good use in tracing Brown's path from his youth in poverty-stricken Palmer's Crossing, Miss., to his eventual induction into the heady and dangerous world of carrier aviation. Taylor based much of his

research on interviews with those who knew Brown and on personal letters from more than a half-century ago. He doesn't skimp on the indignities Brown suffered. At flight training in Illinois, the "Negro" stewards who served student pilots took an immediate offense at his presence and treated him rudely, giving him only half portions. Elsewhere, Brown and his wife and their best friends, a white couple, were refused service at both a black and a white restaurant, and wound up eating in their car. Although readers may balk at first at Taylor's supposition of Brown's innermost thoughts—"Just forget my color. Please. Just teach me"—the overall effect is an engaging and intimate glimpse of a young pioneer who desperately wanted to earn his aviator's wings. Brown's death in Korea at age 24 makes his story and his accomplishments all the more poignant. Photos not seen by PW.

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**Product Description**

Jesse was raised in a poor but loving family and instilled with values of dignity, education, and perseverance even in the midst of deeply entrenched segregation. A star athlete and an outstanding student, Jesse turned a deaf ear to everyone who told him that he should attend a black college, or that he didn't stand a chance of becoming a Navy pilot. Undeterred, he made his way from the deep South to the campus of Ohio State University. Then, defying the wishes of his family and an unwritten rule of racial exclusion, he qualified for the Navy reserve and was accepted into the Naval Air Training School at Glenview, Illinois—the first black man to enter the program. On March 18, 1947, late morning, like a bird, like a kite, like an impossible dream, Jesse Leroy Brown was flying.

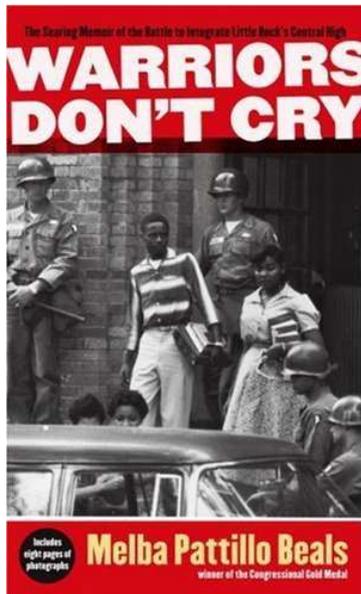
While other applicants-many from upper-class backgrounds-were weeded out of the rigorous qualifying process, Jesse forged ahead, often directly in the face of shameful racism and hostile superior officers. When he arrived at the cradle of Naval aviation in Pensacola, Florida, in 1947, he knew the washout rate was high and the odds were stacked against a man openly referred to as "nigger." But Jesse Leroy Brown had lots of practice beating the odds, and now he was on his way to becoming the first black man to fly a Navy fighter and make a carrier landing. He was also on his way to becoming an American hero over the battlefields of Korea.

*The Flight of Jesse Leroy Brown* is both a stirring story of a man breaking historic racial barriers and a thrilling tale of Naval carrier aviation. Award-winning author Theodore Taylor, a master of adventure on land and sea, has written a biography that will speak to both those who love the excitement of combat in the air ... and to anyone who has ever dreamed the impossible dream. Jesse Leroy Brown was raised in the segregated South by a hard-working, loving family who instilled values of dignity, education, and perseverance. A star athlete and an outstanding student, he was determined to become a Navy pilot, although such a thing was unheard of for a black man in the 1940s. Undeterred, he entered Ohio State University, rather than a black college, and was able to qualify for the Navy reserve and was accepted into the Naval Air Training School at Glenview, Illinois. Despite racism, and open hostility by many of his superior officers, he finally reached his goal, flying a Navy fighter plane and landing it on a carrier--the first African American ever to do so. --*This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.*

### **About the Author**

Theodore Taylor was born in North Carolina and began writing at the age of thirteen as a cub reporter for the Portsmouth, Virginia *Evening Star*. Leaving home at seventeen to join the *Washington Daily News* as a copy boy, he worked his way toward New York City and became an NBC network sportswriter at the age of nineteen. Mr. Taylor is the author of a dozen books for young readers, among them the award-winning *The Cay*. He lives in Laguna Beach, California, with his wife, Flora. --*This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.*

## Warriors Don't Cry      By: Melba Pattillo Beals



### From Publishers Weekly

One of the nine black teenagers who integrated Little Rock's Central High School in 1957 here recounts that traumatic year with drama and detail. Beals, who is now a communications consultant, relies on her own diary from that era and notes made by her English teacher mother--as well as dubiously recreated dialogue--to tell not only of the ugly harassment she was subjected to but also of the impressive dignity of a 15-year-old forced to grow up fast. Arkansas governor Orval Faubus set the tone of the time by resisting integration until a federal judge ordered it. Although Beals was assigned a federal soldier for protection, the young integrationist was still attacked and prevented from engaging in school activities. She recalls stalwart black friends like Minniejean, who was suspended, and a white classmate who surreptitiously kept her informed of the segregationists' tactics. Beals looks back on her Little Rock experiences as "ultimately a

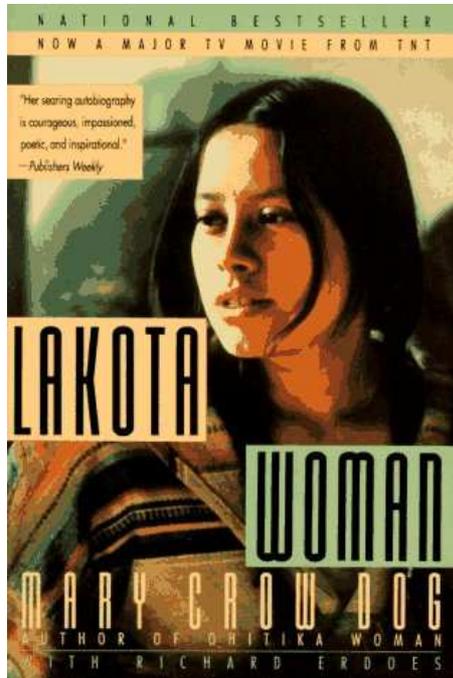
positive force" that shaped her life. "The task that remains," she concludes, "is to cope with our interdependence." Photos not seen by PW. Author tour.

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### Product Description

One of the nine black teenagers chosen to integrate Little Rock, Arkansas' Central High School in 1957 offers an account of her ordeal and of the 1987 "reunion" hosted by then-Governor Bill Clinton. 30,000 first printing. Tour. --*This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.*

## Lakota Woman By: Mary Crow Dog



### From Publishers Weekly

Mary Brave Bird gave birth to a son during the 71-day siege of Wounded Knee in 1973, which ended with a bloody assault by U.S. marshalls and police. Seventeen years old at the time, she married fellow activist Leonard Crow Dog, medicine man and spiritual leader of the American Indian Movement (AIM). Written with Erdoes (Lame Deer ; Seeker of Visions ), her searing autobiography is courageous, impassioned, poetic and inspirational. Her girlhood, a vicious circle of drinking and fighting, was marked by poverty, racism and a rape at 14. She ran away from a coldly impersonal boarding school run by nuns where, she reports, Indian students were beaten to induce them to give up native customs and speech. The authors write of AIM's infiltration by FBI agents, of Mary Crow Dog helping her husband endure prison, of Indian males' macho attitudes. The book also describes AIM's renewal of

spirituality as manifested in sweat lodges, peyote ceremonies, sacred songs and the Ghost Dance ritual. Photos.

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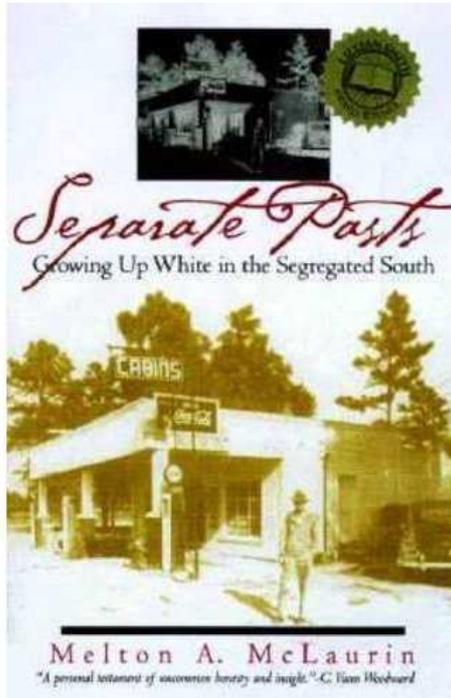
### Product Description

A unique autobiography unparalleled in American Indian literature, and a deeply moving account of a woman's triumphant struggle to survive in a hostile world.

### About the Author

Mary Brave Bird grew up fatherless in a one-room cabin, without running water or electricity on a South Dakota reservation. Rebellng against the aimless drinking, punishing missionary school, narrow strictures for women, and violence and hopelessness of reservation life, she joined the new movement of tribal pride sweeping Native American communities in the sixties and seventies and eventually married Leonard Crow Dog, the movement's chief medicine man, who revived the sacred but outlawed Ghost Dance.

## Separate Pasts: Growing Up White in the Segregated South By: Melton A. McLaurin



### Review

"Vivid episodes and character sketches . . . Shows both sides of a society that could be cruel and paternalistic, oppressive and benevolent."--*Chicago Tribune*

"Makes an adolescent's confusions illuminate much of the moral confusion of white society."--*The Nation*

"A[n] affecting autobiography . . . It is a dispatch from a time that mercifully is no more. That such a statement can be made is tribute not merely to the blacks who fought against the old ways but to the whites such as McLaurin who learned from them."--*Washington Post*

### Product Description

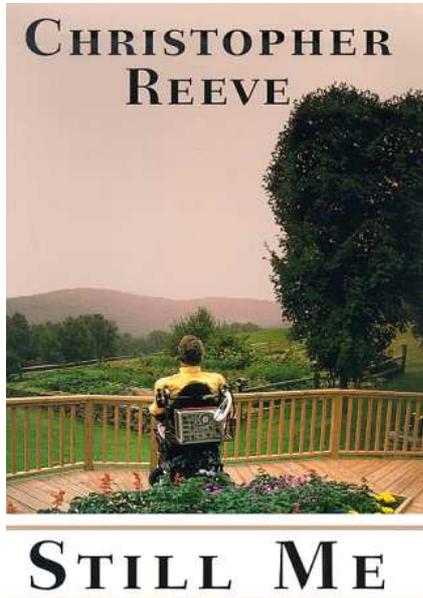
In *Separate Pasts* Melton A. McLaurin honestly and plainly recalls his boyhood during the 1950s, an era when segregation existed unchallenged in the rural South. In his small hometown of Wade, North Carolina, whites and blacks lived and worked within each other's shadows, yet were separated by the history they shared. *Separate Pasts* is the moving story of the bonds McLaurin formed with friends of both races--a testament to the power of human relationships to overcome even the most ingrained systems of oppression.

A new afterword provides historical context for the development of segregation in North Carolina. In his poignant portrayal of contemporary Wade, McLaurin shows that, despite integration and the election of a black mayor, the legacy of racism remains.

### About the Author

Melton A. McLaurin is a professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. He is the author of *Separate Pasts: Growing Up White in the Segregated South* for which he received the Lillian Smith Award, and *Celia, a Slave* (both Georgia).

**Still Me**      **By: Christopher Reeve**



### **Product Description**

When the first **Superman** movie came out I was frequently asked 'What is a hero?' I remember the glib response I repeated so many times. My answer was that a hero is someone who commits a courageous action without considering the consequences--a soldier who crawls out of a foxhole to drag an injured buddy to safety. And I also meant individuals who are slightly larger than life: Houdini and Lindbergh, John Wayne, JFK, and Joe DiMaggio. Now my definition is completely different. I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles: a fifteen-year-old boy who landed on his head while wrestling with his brother, leaving him barely able to swallow or speak; Travis Roy, paralyzed in the first thirty seconds of a hockey game in his freshman year at college. These are real heroes, and so are the families and friends who have stood by them."

The whole world held its breath when Christopher Reeve struggled for life on Memorial Day, 1995. On the third jump of a riding competition, Reeve was thrown headfirst from his horse in an accident that broke his neck and left him unable to move or breathe.

In the years since then, Reeve has not only survived, but has fought for himself, for his family, and for the hundreds of thousands of people with spinal cord injuries in the United States and around the world. And he has written **Still Me**, the heartbreaking, funny, courageous, and hopeful story of his life.

Chris describes his early success on Broadway opposite the legendary Katherine Hepburn, the adventure of filming **Superman** on the streets of New York, and how the movie made him a star. He continued to move regularly between film acting and theater work in New York, Los Angeles, and at the Williamstown Theatre Festival in the Berkshires. Reunited with his **Bostonians** director, James Ivory, in 1992, he traveled to England to work with Emma Thompson and Anthony Hopkins in **The Remains of the Day**.

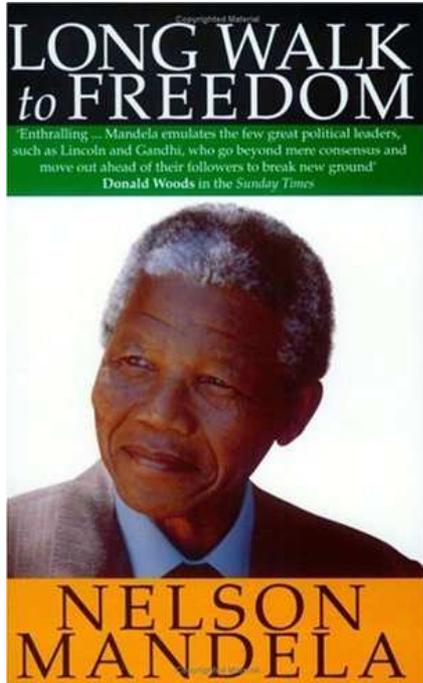
The Man who cannot move has not stopped moving. He has established a charitable foundation to raise awareness and money for research on spinal cord injuries. His work as director of the HBO film **In the Gloaming** earned him an Emmy nomination, one of five that the film received. His speeches at the Democratic National Convention and the Academy Awards inspired people around the country and the world. He has testified before Congress on behalf of health insurance legislation, lobbied for increased federal funding for spinal cord research, and developed a working relationship with President Clinton.

With dignity and sensitivity, he describes the journey he has made--physically, emotionally,

spiritually. He explores his complex relationship with his parents, his efforts to remain a devoted husband and father, and his continuing and heroic battle to rebuild his life.

This is the determined, passionate story of one man, a gifted actor and star, and how he and his family came to grips with the kind of devastating, unexplainable shock that fate can bring to any of us. Chris and Dana Reeve have gathered the will and the spirit to create a new life, one responsive and engaged and focused on the future.

## Long Walk to Freedom By: Nelson Mandela



### Amazon.com Review

The famously taciturn South African president reveals much of himself in *Long Walk to Freedom*. A good deal of this autobiography was written secretly while Mandela was imprisoned for 27 years on Robben Island by South Africa's apartheid regime. Among the book's interesting revelations is Mandela's ambivalence toward his lifetime of devotion to public works. It cost him two marriages and kept him distant from a family life he might otherwise have cherished. *Long Walk to Freedom* also discloses a strong and generous spirit that refused to be broken under the most trying circumstances--a spirit in which just about everybody can find something to admire. --*This text refers to the [Paperback](#) edition.*

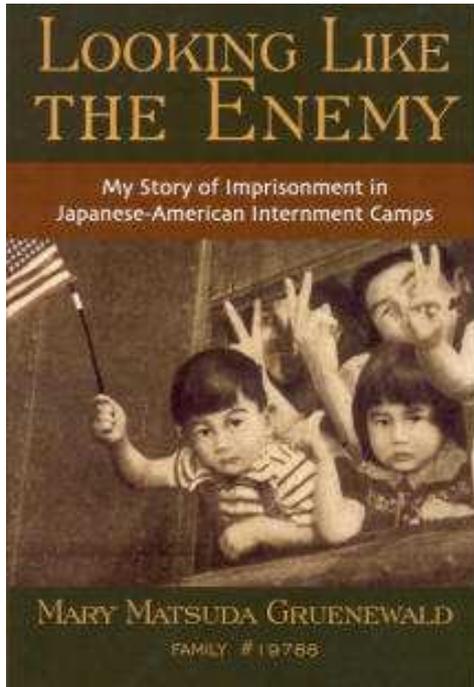
### Product Description

An international hero, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, and leader of South Africa's antiapartheid movement chronicles his life, including his tribal years, his time spent in prison, and his return to lead his people. 175,000 first printing. Major ad/promo. --*This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.*

### About the Author

Nelson Mandela won the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize. He was inaugurated in 1994 and became the first freely-elected President of South Africa. --*This text refers to the [Audio CD](#) edition.*

**Looking Like the Enemy: My Story of Imprisonment in Japanese-American Internment Camps**      **By: Mary Matsuda Gruenewald**



**Product Description**

In 1941, Mary Matsuda Gruenewald was a teenage girl who, like other Americans, reacted with horror to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Yet soon she and her family were among 110,000 innocent people imprisoned by the U.S. government because of their Japanese ancestry. In this eloquent memoir, she describes both the day-to-day and the dramatic turning points of this profound injustice: what it was like to face an indefinite sentence in crowded, primitive camps; the struggle for survival and dignity; and the strength gained from learning what she was capable of and could do to sustain her family. It is at once a coming-of-age story with interest for young readers, an engaging narrative on a topic still not widely known, and a timely warning for the present era of terrorism. Complete with period photos, the book also brings readers up to the present, including the author's celebration of the National Japanese American Memorial dedication in 2000.

## Hapa Girl: A Memoir By: May-Lee Chai



### From Publishers Weekly

A heavy dose of bitterness keeps Chai's memoir of growing up in South Dakota with a Chinese-American father and a Caucasian mother from registering deeply. The Chai family, used to liberal, progressive California and New York City, suffered terribly when Chai's father took a post at a rural university: prejudice ran deeply in the little town where they settled. Shots were fired close to their house, their pets were killed and the author and her brother were the victims of racist verbal assaults. The author still seems angry, and her frustration comes across like angsty teenage impudence. She's angry that her naïve father made the rash decision to move at all ("My father had the more pressing issue of his destiny to attend to"). Years later, still trapped in South Dakota, she mentions, "I.. couldn't believe my father had made us leave our home to live in

this place." And she's angry that she had to attend what she calls "Stephen King High." But it's not all gloom: Chai's mother, a canny woman who smiled in the face of prejudice and amassed her own group of friends, is the book's star. Her courage, recounted by her daughter, saves this otherwise one-note memoir. Illustrations.

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*This text refers to the [Hardcover](#) edition.*

### Book Description

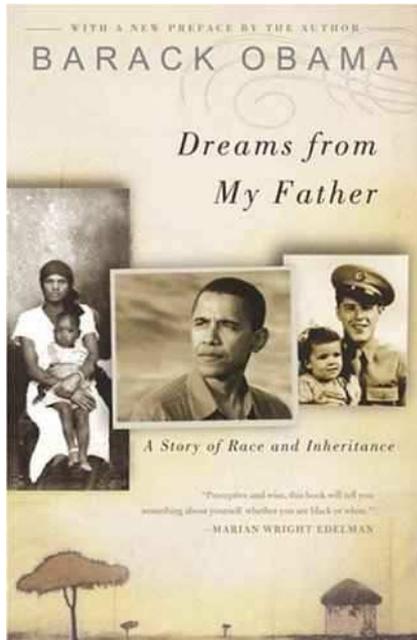
In the mid-1960s, Winberg Chai, a young academic and the son of Chinese immigrants, married an Irish-American artist. In *Hapa Girl* ("hapa" is Hawaiian for "mixed") their daughter tells the story of this loving family as they moved from Southern California to New York to a South Dakota farm by the 1980s. In their new Midwestern home, the family finds itself the object of unwelcome attention, which swiftly escalates to violence. The Chais are suddenly socially isolated and barely able to cope with the tension that arises from daily incidents of racial animosity, including random acts of cruelty.

May-lee Chai's memoir ends in China, where she arrives just in time to witness a riot and demonstrations. Here she realizes that the rural Americans' *"fears of change, of economic uncertainty, of racial anxiety, of the unknowable future compared to the known past were the same as China's. And I realized finally that it had not been my fault."*

## **About the Author**

**May-lee Chai** is the author of five books, *My Lucky Face*, *The Girl from Purple Mountain* (co-authored with Winberg Chai) and *Glamorous Asians: Short Stories & Essays*, and recipient of an NEA Grant in Literature.

## **Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance**     **By: Barack Obama**



### **From Publishers Weekly**

Elected the first black president of the Harvard Law Review, Obama was offered a book contract, but the intellectual journey he planned to recount became instead this poignant, probing memoir of an unusual life. Born in 1961 to a white American woman and a black Kenyan student, Obama was reared in Hawaii by his mother and her parents, his father having left for further study and a return home to Africa. So Obama's not-unhappy youth is nevertheless a lonely voyage to racial identity, tensions in school, struggling with black literature—with one month-long visit when he was 10 from his commanding father. After college, Obama became a community organizer in Chicago. He slowly found place and purpose among folks of similar hue but different memory, winning enough small victories to commit himself to the work—he's now a civil rights lawyer there. Before going to law school, he finally visited Kenya; with his father dead, he still

confronted obligation and loss, and found wellsprings of love and attachment. Obama leaves some lingering questions—his mother is virtually absent—but still has written a resonant book. Photos not seen by PW. Author tour.

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### **Product Description**

Nine years before the Senate campaign that made him one of the most influential and compelling voices in American politics, Barack Obama published this lyrical, unsentimental, and powerfully affecting memoir, which became a #1 New York Times bestseller when it was reissued in 2004.

**Dreams from My Father** tells the story of Obama's struggle to understand the forces that shaped him as the son of a black African father and white American mother—a struggle that takes him from the American heartland to the ancestral home of his great-aunt in the tiny African village of Alego.

Obama opens his story in New York, where he hears that his father—a figure he knows more as a myth than as a man—has died in a car accident. The news triggers a chain of memories as Barack retraces his family's unusual history: the migration of his mother's family from small-town Kansas to the Hawaiian islands; the love that develops between his mother and a promising young Kenyan student, a love nurtured by youthful innocence and the integrationist spirit of the early sixties; his father's departure from Hawaii when Barack was two, as the realities of race and power reassert themselves; and Barack's own awakening to the fears and doubts that exist

not just between the larger black and white worlds but within himself.

Propelled by a desire to understand both the forces that shaped him and his father's legacy, Barack moves to Chicago to work as a community organizer. There, against the backdrop of tumultuous political and racial conflict, he works to turn back the mounting despair of the inner city. His story becomes one with those of the people he works with as he learns about the value of community, the necessity of healing old wounds, and the possibility of faith in the midst of adversity.

Barack's journey comes full circle in Kenya, where he finally meets the African side of his family and confronts the bitter truth of his father's life. Traveling through a country racked by brutal poverty and tribal conflict, but whose people are sustained by a spirit of endurance and hope, Barack discovers that he is inescapably bound to brothers and sisters living an ocean away—and that by embracing their common struggles he can finally reconcile his divided inheritance.

A searching meditation on the meaning of identity in America, **Dreams from My Father** might be the most revealing portrait we have of a major American leader—a man who is playing, and will play, an increasingly prominent role in healing a fractious and fragmented nation.

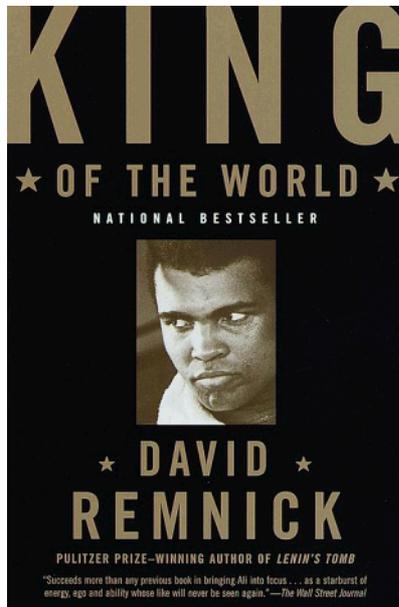
Pictured in lefthand photograph on cover: Habiba Akumu Hussein and Barack Obama, Sr. (President Obama's paternal grandmother and his father as a young boy). Pictured in righthand photograph on cover: Stanley Dunham and Ann Dunham (President Obama's maternal grandfather and his mother as a young girl). --*This text refers to the [Hardcover](#) edition.*

## **About the Author**

BARACK OBAMA was elected President of the United States on November 4, 2008. He is also the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream*. --*This text refers to the [Hardcover](#) edition.*

## King of the World

By: David Remnick



### Amazon.com Review

You'd think there wouldn't be much left to say about a living icon like Muhammad Ali, yet David Remnick imbues *King of the World* with all the freshness and vitality this legendary fighter displayed in his prime. Beginning with the pre-Ali days of boxing and its two archetypes, Floyd Patterson (the *good* black heavyweight) and Sonny Liston (the *bad* black heavyweight), Remnick deftly sets the stage for the emergence of a heavyweight champion the likes of which the world had never seen: a three-dimensional, Technicolor showman, fighter and minister of Islam, a man who talked almost as well as he fought. But mostly Remnick's portrait is of a man who could not be confined to any existing stereotypes, inside the ring or out.

In extraordinary detail, Remnick depicts Ali as a creation of his own imagination as we follow the willful and mercurial young Cassius Clay from his boyhood and watch him hone and shape himself to a figure who would eventually command center stage in one of the most volatile decades in our history. To Remnick it seems clear that Ali's greatest accomplishment is to prove beyond a doubt that not only is it possible to challenge the implacable forces of the establishment (the *noir*-ish, gangster-ridden fight game and the ethos of a whole country) but, with the right combination of conviction and talent, to triumph over these forces. --Fred Haefele --*This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.*

### Product Description

"Succeeds more than any previous book in bringing Ali into focus . . . as a starburst of energy, ego and ability whose like will never be seen again."--*The Wall Street Journal*

"Best Nonfiction Book of the Year"--*Time*

"Penetrating . . . reveal[s] details that even close followers of [Ali] might not have known. . . . An amazing story." --*The New York Times*

On the night in 1964 that Muhammad Ali (then known as Cassius Clay) stepped into the ring with Sonny Liston, he was widely regarded as an irritating freak who danced and talked way too much. Six rounds later Ali was not only the new world heavyweight boxing champion: He was "a new kind of black man" who would shortly transform America's racial politics, its popular culture, and its notions of heroism.

No one has captured Ali--and the era that he exhilarated and sometimes infuriated--with greater vibrancy, drama, and astuteness than David Remnick, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author

of **Lenin's Tomb** (and editor of **The New Yorker**). In charting Ali's rise from the gyms of Louisville, Kentucky, to his epochal fights against Liston and Floyd Patterson, Remnick creates a canvas of unparalleled richness. He gives us empathetic portraits of wisecracking sportswriters and bone-breaking mobsters; of the baleful Liston and the haunted Patterson; of an audacious Norman Mailer and an enigmatic Malcolm X. Most of all, **King of the World** does justice to the speed, grace, courage, humor, and ebullience of one of the greatest athletes and irresistibly dynamic personalities of our time.

"Nearly pulse-pounding narrative power . . . an important account of a period in American social history." --*Chicago Tribune*

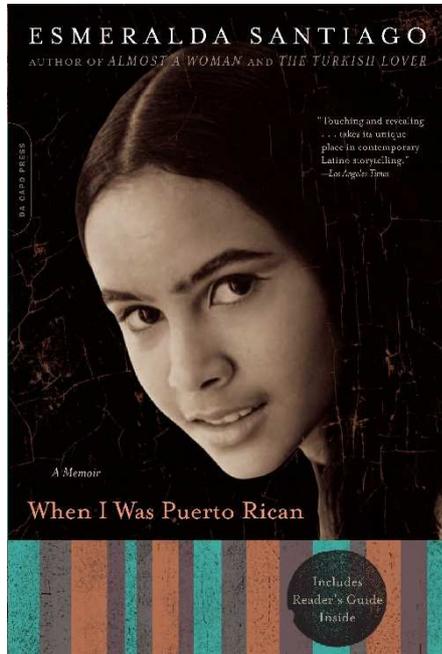
"A pleasure . . . haunting . . . so vivid that one can imagine Ali saying, 'How'd you get inside my head, boy?'" --Wilfrid Sheed, *Time*

### **About the Author**

David Remnick lives in New York City.

## When I Was Puerto Rican

By: Esmeralda Santiago



### From Publishers Weekly

Santiago's artful memoir recounts her childhood in rural Puerto Rico and her teenage years in New York City; also available in a Spanish-language edition, \$11 \*-75677-9 Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --*This text refers to an alternate [Paperback](#) edition.*

### Product Description

"The American story of immigration, this time with a unique Latin flavor." (*Los Angeles Times Book Review*)

Esmeralda Santiago's story begins in rural Puerto Rico, where her childhood was full of both tenderness and domestic strife, tropical sounds and sights as well as poverty. Growing up, she learned the proper way to eat a guava, the sound of tree frogs in the mango groves at night, the taste of

the delectable sausage called *morcilla*, and the formula for ushering a dead baby's soul to heaven. As she enters school we see the clash, both hilarious and fierce, of Puerto Rican and Yankee culture. When her mother, Mami, a force of nature, takes off to New York with her seven, soon to be eleven children, Esmeralda, the oldest, must learn new rules, a new language, and eventually take on a new identity.

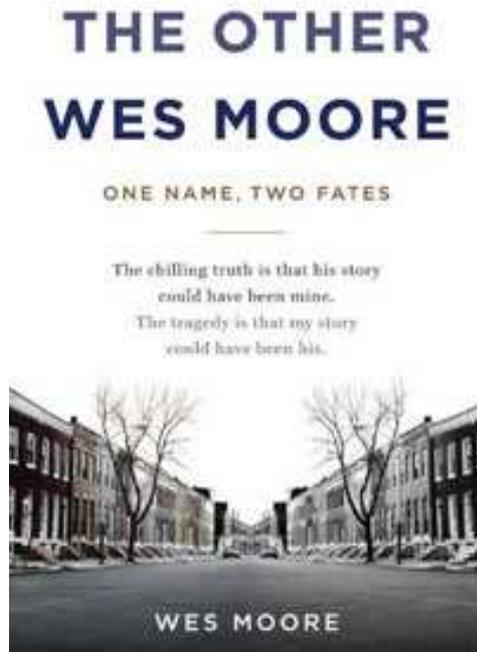
In this first volume of her much-praised, bestselling trilogy, Santiago brilliantly recreates the idyllic landscape and tumultuous family life of her earliest years and her tremendous journey from the *barrio* to Brooklyn, from translating for her mother at the welfare office to high honors at Harvard.

### About the Author

Esmeralda Santiago is the author of two other highly acclaimed memoirs, *The Turkish Lover* and *Almost a Woman*, which was made into a film for PBS's Masterpiece Theatre. She has also written a novel, *America's Dream*, and has co-edited two anthologies of Latino literature. She lives in Westchester County, New York.

**The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates** By: Wes Moore

**From Publishers Weekly**



Starred Review. Two hauntingly similar boys take starkly different paths in this searing tale of the ghetto. Moore, an investment banker, Rhodes scholar, and former aide to Condoleezza Rice, was intrigued when he learned that another Wes Moore, his age and from the same area of Greater Baltimore, was wanted for killing a cop. Meeting his double and delving into his life reveals deeper likenesses: raised in fatherless families and poor black neighborhoods, both felt the lure of the money and status to be gained from dealing drugs. That the author resisted the criminal underworld while the other Wes drifted into it is chalked up less to character than to the influence of relatives, mentors, and expectations that pushed against his own delinquent impulses, to the point of exiling him to military school. Moore writes with subtlety and insight about the plight of ghetto youth, viewing it from inside and out; he probes beneath the pathologies to reveal the pressures—poverty, a lack of prospects, the need to

respond to violence with greater violence—that propelled the other Wes to his doom. The result is a moving exploration of roads not taken. (*May 4*)

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**Product Description**

**Two kids with the same name lived in the same decaying city. One went on to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated combat veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader. The other is serving a life sentence in prison. Here is the story of two boys and the journey of a generation.**

In December 2000, the Baltimore Sun ran a small piece about Wes Moore, a local student who had just received a Rhodes Scholarship. The same paper also ran a series of articles about four young men who had allegedly killed a police officer in a spectacularly botched armed robbery. The police were still hunting for two of the suspects who had gone on the lam, a pair of brothers. One was named Wes Moore.

Wes just couldn't shake off the unsettling coincidence, or the inkling that the two shared much more than space in the same newspaper. After following the story of the robbery, the manhunt, and the trial to its conclusion, he wrote a letter to the other Wes, now a convicted murderer serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole. His letter tentatively asked the questions that had been haunting him: Who are you? How did this happen?

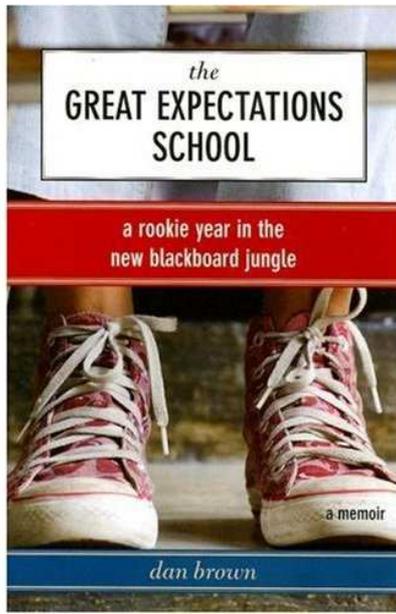
That letter led to a correspondence and relationship that have lasted for several years. Over dozens of letters and prison visits, Wes discovered that the other Wes had had a life not unlike his own: Both had grown up in similar neighborhoods and had had difficult childhoods, both were fatherless; they'd hung out on similar corners with similar crews, and both had run into trouble with the police. At each stage of their young lives they had come across similar moments of decision, yet their choices would lead them to astonishingly different destinies.

Told in alternating dramatic narratives that take readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption, *The Other Wes Moore* tells the story of a generation of boys trying to find their way in a hostile world.

### **About the Author**

Wes Moore is a Rhodes Scholar and a combat veteran of Afghanistan. As a White House Fellow, he worked as a special assistant to Secretary Condoleezza Rice at the State Department. He was a featured speaker at the 2008 Democratic National Convention, was named one of Ebony magazine's Top 30 Leaders Under 30 (2007), and, most recently, was dubbed one of the top young business leaders in New York by Crain's New York Business. He works in New York City.

## **The Great Expectations School: A Rookie Year in the New Blackboard Jungle** **By: Dan Brown**



### **Review**

"A poignant portrait painted with skill . . . Read it and weep--and wonder no more about the human dimensions of the achievement gap." -- *Gene I. Maeroff, Teachers College, Columbia University, author of Building Blocks: Making Children Successful in the Early Years of School*

"By turns humorous and haunting, Dan Brown . . . takes the reader on both a compelling and illuminating journey through the American public education system. Unlike many other books on the topic, however, Brown's is not a dry litany of all that is wrong with that system, but rather highlights the personal success-stories" -- *Scott Anderson, author of Moonlight Hotel and Triage*

"Dan Brown's heartfelt account of the thrills and frustrations of a first-year teacher grips like a novel. A must-read for anyone who has dreamed of a job that makes a difference." -- *Anya Kamenetz, author of Generation Debt*

"[A] powerful, heart-breaking story that challenges our image of inner city schools and the children who populate them. Important and moving, *The Great Expectations School* grabs your attention from the first page and refuses to let go." -- *Gilbert M. Gaul, two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist*

"[A] riveting human drama full of heroes and villains, humor and tragedy. Brown is an exciting new talent and his writing is so clear and suspenseful that the pages turn themselves. I couldn't put this book down." -- *Clara Bingham, co-author of Class Action, basis for the Academy Award-nominated film North Country, and author of Women on the Hill: Challenging the Culture of Congress*

Full of funny, painful, and illuminating stories covering the children at risk . . . It is a must read for anyone interested in reforming our schools -- *Maggie Dixon, Collegiate School librarian*

### **Product Description**

At 22, Dan Brown came to the Bronx's P.S. 85 as an eager, fresh-faced teacher. Unbeknownst to him, his assigned class, 4-217, was the designated "dumping ground" for all fourth-grade problem cases, and his students would prove to be more challenging than he could ever

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anticipate. Intent on being a caring, dedicated teacher but confronted with unruly children, absent parents, and a failing administration, Dan was pushed to the limit time and again: he found himself screaming with rage, punching his fist through a blackboard out of sheer frustration, often just wanting to give up and walk away.

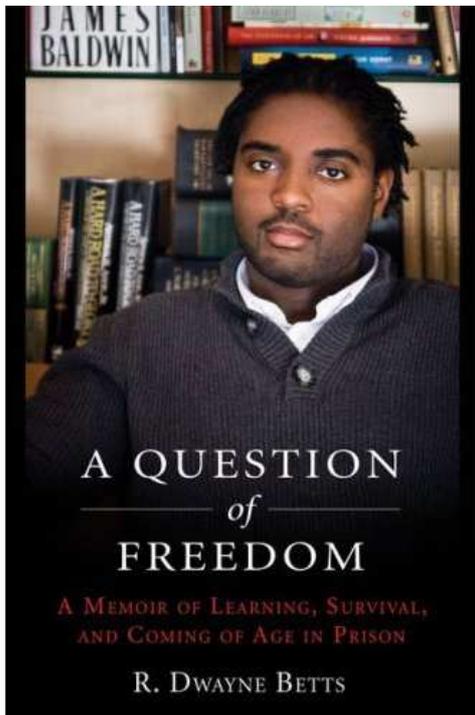
Yet in this seeming chaos, he slowly learned from his own mistakes and discovered an unexpected well of inspiration to discipline and teach and make a difference.

*The Great Expectations School* is the touching journey of Class 4-217 and their teacher, Mr. Brown, but more than that, it is the revealing story of a broken educational system and all those struggling within and fighting against it.

### **About the Author**

Dan Brown was born in Philadelphia and grew up in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. He is a student at Teachers College, Columbia University. He lives in New York City. This is his first book.

## **A Question of Freedom: A Memoir of Learning, Survival, and Coming of Age in Prison**      **By: R. Dwayne Betts**



### **Review**

"Dwayne Betts was incarcerated for 9 years in an unforgiving place? a place in which he also discovered the incredible power of books and reading. He's written his own life-changing book, which may well prevent other young men from making that detour to prison. A searing and ultimately uplifting story." Hill Harper, Best selling author of *Letters to a Young Brother* and *Letters to a Young Sister*.

"I'm so happy to have been introduced to the miracle that is R. Dwayne Betts' *A Question of Freedom*. It tells so many important stories: of senseless violence that plagues our streets, the devastating affect our prison system is having on so many young African-American males and the struggles we must

all experience before we can find redemption. But perhaps most importantly, it's a story about the power of consciousness. A reminder that no matter how confining our surroundings might seem or how bleak our future might look, as long as we are in touch with our higher selves, we can always tap into both the compassion and the toughness that is in all of our hearts. Betts is a major new voice in hip-hop and I look forward to being inspired by him for years to come." Russell Simmons "*A Question of Freedom* is a must-read and should be required reading for all those young sons and grandsons and brothers and nephews and uncles who believe this can't happen to them; it can, even if they can't wrap their brains around such a concept." - *Baltimore Times*

### **Product Description**

**A powerful debut memoir from a published poet and emerging writer.**

At the age of sixteen, R. Dwayne Betts- a good student from a lower-middle-class family- carjacked a man with a friend. He had never held a gun before, but within a matter of minutes he had committed six felonies. In Virginia, carjacking is a "certifiable" offense, meaning that Dwayne would be treated as an adult under state law. A bright young kid, weighing only 126 pounds- not enough to fill out a medium T-shirt -he served his eight-year sentence as part of the adult population in some of the worst prisons in the state.

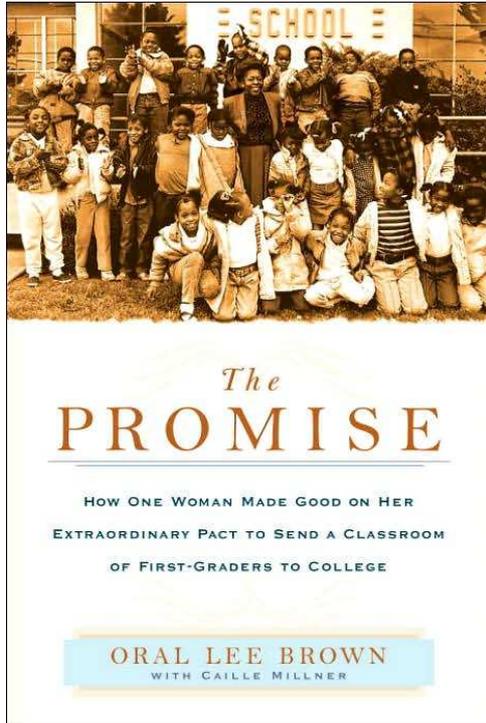
*A Question of Freedom* is a coming-of-age story, with the unique twist that it takes place in prison. Utterly alone-and with the growing realization that he really is not going home any time soon-Dwayne confronts profound questions about violence, freedom, crime, race, and the justice system. Above all, *A Question of Freedom* is about a quest for identity-one that guarantees Dwayne's survival in a hostile environment and that incorporates an understanding of how his own past led to the moment of his crime.

## **About the Author**

### **R . DWAYNE BETTS**

is graduate student at Warren Wilson College, where he has been awarded the Holden Fellowship. Shortly after his release from prison, *The Washington Post* published a feature article about him and a book club he founded for at-risk young men called YoungMenRead. He teaches poetry at several public schools in the D.C. metro area, has had his poetry published in many national literary journals, and contributed an essay to the anthology *It's All Love*.

## The Promise      By: Oral Lee Brown



### From Publishers Weekly

On a whim one afternoon in 1987, Brown, a middle-class woman living in the poor and crime-ridden community of East Oakland, Calif., walked into her classroom of 23 first graders and promised that if they finished high school, she'd send them all to college. Of that first group of "her babies," as Brown calls them (her own children were already grown up), 19 went on to college. Today, the Oral Lee Brown Foundation sends 20 teenagers from this same community to college every four years. Brown's experience with the first group was difficult, but she only briefly explains how it affected her personally, preferring to focus on the kids (although her constant reminders that she's doing so do become grating). She raised money (donating her own income as a base) and acted as a second family to these children, taking them on college tours; buying them books and groceries; and, occasionally, putting them up in her own house. Written with *San Jose Mercury News* reporter Millner, the book is didactic in its approach, yet should inspire parents and teachers, who will especially

appreciate the "tip sheet for college acceptance" at book's end.

### Product Description

In the bestselling tradition of *The Pact* and *The Freedom Writers Diary*—the inspiring story of one woman's extraordinary promise and steely determination to make a difference in the world.

One morning in 1987 Oral Lee Brown walked into a corner store in East Oakland, California, to buy snacks for work. A little girl asked her for a quarter, and Brown assumed that she wanted to buy candy, but surprisingly she bought bread and bologna—staples for her family.

Later that day Brown couldn't get the little girl out of her mind. Why wasn't she in school? Why was she out begging for money to buy food for her family? After several weeks of not being able to sleep, Brown went to look for the girl at the local elementary school and soon found herself in a first-grade classroom. She didn't find the little girl, but before she left she found herself promising the kids that if they finished high school, she would pay for their college education.

At the time, Oral Lee Brown made only \$45,000 a year.

But years later, after annually saving and investing \$10,000 of her own money and establishing the Oral Lee Brown Foundation, this remarkable woman made good on her promise: after nineteen of the original twenty-three students graduated from high school, she sent them all to college. And in May of 2003, LaTosha Hunter was the first of Brown's "babies," as well as the first person in her family, to graduate from college.

This marvelous and inspiring book is the amazing story of one woman's unending desire to make a difference. And if once was not enough, in 2001 Brown made the same promise to three new classrooms of first-, fifth-, and ninth-graders. Brown and her foundation are now committed to adopting a new crop of kids to send to college every four years.

Brown's pledge to the students was not without great personal and public sacrifice. Her promise turned her life upside-down—it strained her relationships, and at times required her to work several different jobs. Brown also developed a strong emotional attachment to the children—for many of these students Brown was the one consistent adult in their lives.

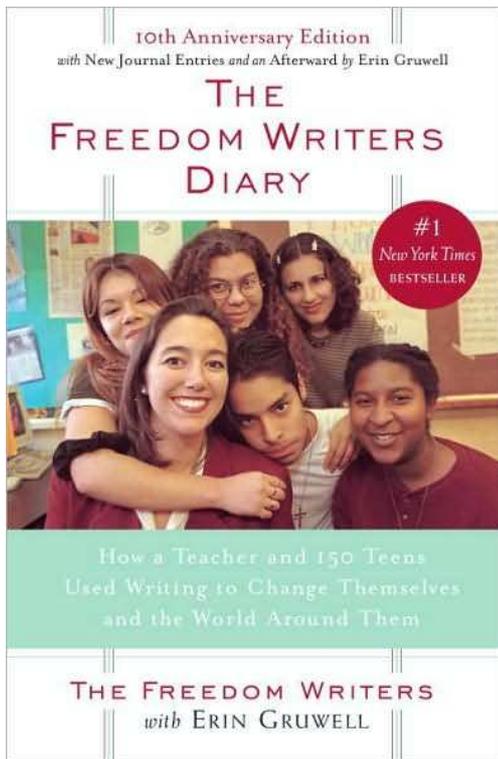
In a world short on heroes, altruism, and dedication, *THE PROMISE* shows that it is still possible to change lives for the better. This book will encourage, uplift, and inspire every reader.

A portion of the proceeds from the book will go to the Oral Lee Brown Foundation. To learn more about the Oral Lee Brown Foundation please visit [www.oralleebrownfoundation.com](http://www.oralleebrownfoundation.com).

### **About the Author**

ORAL LEE BROWN was selected as one of Glamour magazine's "Women of the Year" in 2002, and appeared on the Today show as part of its "People Who Make a Difference" series. She has also been a guest on The Oprah Winfrey Show, NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw, and Courage, hosted by Danny Glover. She has received numerous awards, including the California State Lottery Hero in Education Award, the "Ten Most Influential People Award," given by San Francisco mayor Willie Brown, and the Madame C.J. Walker Award. She lives in Oakland, California. CAILLE MILLNER was listed as one of *Columbia Journalism Review's* "Ten Most Promising Young Magazine Writers." She is currently a reporter and editorial writer for the *San Jose Mercury News*.

## The Freedom Writers Diary By: Erin Gruwell



### From Library Journal

When Gruwell was a first-year high school teacher in Long Beach, CA, teaching the "unteachables" (kids that no other teacher wanted to deal with), she discovered that most of her students had not heard of the Holocaust. Shocked, she introduced them to books about tolerance. A first-person account by the likes of Anne Frank and Zlata Filipovic, who chronicled her life in war-torn Sarajevo. The students were inspired to start keeping diaries of their lives that showed the violence, homelessness, racism, illness, and abuse that surrounded them. These student diaries form the basis of this book, which is cut from the same mold as *Dangerous Minds*: the outsider teacher, who isn't supposed to last a month, comes in and rebuilds a class with tough love and hard work. Most readers will be proud to see how these students have succeeded; at the end of their four-year experience, the Freedom Writers as they called themselves, in honor of the Freedom Riders of the 1960s. All had graduated; Gruwell now works at the college level, instructing teachers on how to provide more interactive classes for their students. Recommended for youth, education, and urban studies collections. ADanna C.

Bell-Russel, Lib. of Congress, Washington, DC

### Product Description

Straight from the front line of urban America, the inspiring story of one fiercely determined teacher and her remarkable students.

As an idealistic twenty-three-year-old English teacher at Wilson High School in Long beach, California, Erin Gruwell confronted a room of "unteachable, at-risk" students. One day she intercepted a note with an ugly racial caricature, and angrily declared that this was precisely the sort of thing that led to the Holocaust—only to be met by uncomprehending looks. So she and her students, using the treasured books *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* and *Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo* as their guides, undertook a life-changing, eye-opening, spirit-raising odyssey against intolerance and misunderstanding. They learned to see the parallels in these books to their own lives, recording their thoughts and feelings in diaries and dubbing themselves the "Freedom Writers" in homage to the civil rights activists "The Freedom Riders."

With funds raised by a “Read-a-thon for Tolerance,” they arranged for Miep Gies, the courageous Dutch woman who sheltered the Frank family, to visit them in California, where she declared that Erin Gruwell’s students were “the real heroes.” Their efforts have paid off spectacularly, both in terms of recognition—appearances on “Prime Time Live” and “All Things Considered,” coverage in *People* magazine, a meeting with U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley—and educationally. All 150 Freedom Writers have graduated from high school and are now attending college.

With powerful entries from the students’ own diaries and a narrative text by Erin Gruwell, *The Freedom Writers Diary* is an uplifting, unforgettable example of how hard work, courage, and the spirit of determination changed the lives of a teacher and her students.

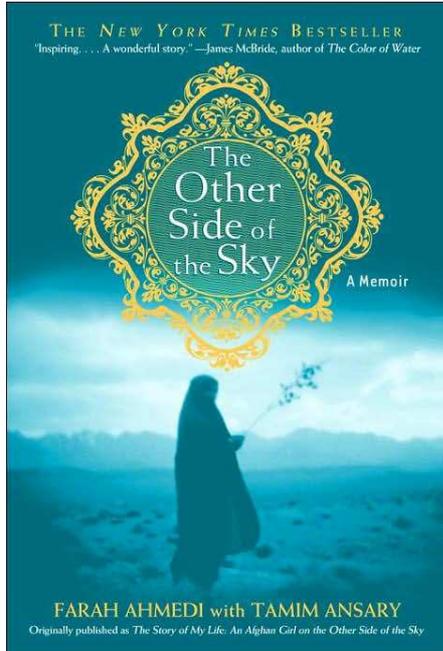
The authors’ proceeds from this book will be donated to The Tolerance Education Foundation, an organization set up to pay for the Freedom Writers’ college tuition. Erin Gruwell is now a visiting professor at California State University, Long Beach, where some of her students are Freedom Writers.

### **About the Author**

ERIN GRUWELL, the Freedom Writers, and her nonprofit organization have received many awards, including the prestigious Spirit of Anne Frank Award, and have appeared on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Prime Time Live*, *Good Morning America*, and *The View*, to name a few. All 150 Freedom Writers went on to graduate from Wilson High. She lives in Long Beach, California. -- *This text refers to an alternate [Paperback](#) edition.*

## The Other Side of the Sky

By: Farah Ahmedi with Tmim Ansary



### Review

"Farah is a tower of strength."-- Heather Mills McCartney

"Very compelling. . . . Here you have a girl, a child, who suffered her own disability, [and] the loss of her family and her homeland. She's taking care of her aging mother and adapting to this new culture, and she's a bright, shining light in the world. . . . Very moving."-- Mary Karr, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Liar's Club* and *Cherry*

"[*The Other Side of the Sky*] has that wonderful quality of survival and is most compelling. Seeing Afghanistan from the eyes of this girl provides a deep, rich look that we haven't seen before."-- Mary Higgins Clark, author of thirty-three worldwide bestsellers

### Product Description

Farah Ahmedi's "poignant tale of survival" (*Chicago Tribune*) chronicles her journey from war to peace. Equal parts tragedy and hope, determination and daring, Ahmedi's memoir delivers a remarkably vivid portrait of her girlhood in Kabul, where the sound of gunfire and the sight of falling bombs shaped her life and stole her family. She herself narrowly escapes death when she steps on a land mine. Eventually the war forces her to flee, first over the mountains to refugee camps across the border, and finally to America. Ahmedi proves that even in the direst circumstances, not only can the human heart endure, it can thrive. *The Other Side of the Sky* is "a remarkable journey" (*Chicago Sun-Times*), and Farah Ahmedi inspires us all.

### About the Author

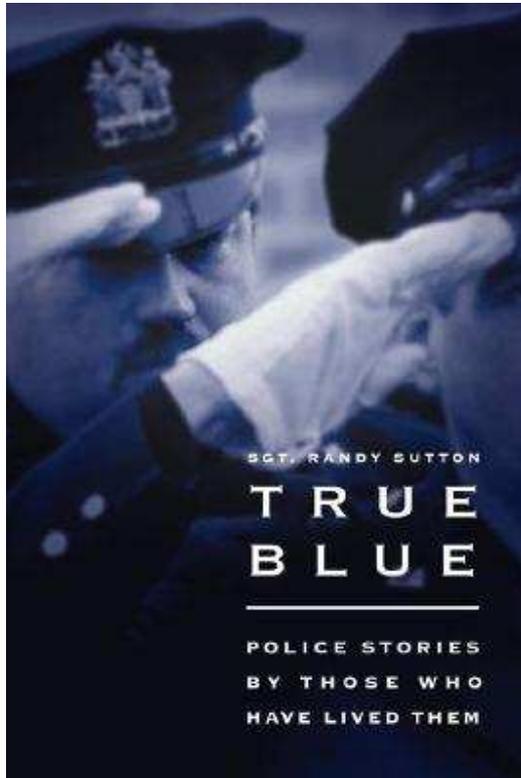
**Farah Ahmedi** is a high school student and an ambassador to the United Nations' Adopt-A-Minefield program.

For more information on Farah and her charitable foundation, Farah's Wings of Hope, visit [www.farahsworld.com](http://www.farahsworld.com).

For a reading group guide to *The Other Side of the Sky* suitable for classroom, library, or reading group use, visit [www.SimonSaysTEACH.com](http://www.SimonSaysTEACH.com).

**Tamim Ansary** is the author of *West of Kabul, East of New York: An Afghan American Story* as well as numerous books for children. A columnist for Encarta, he lives in San Francisco with his wife and their two children.

**True Blue: Police Stories by Those Who Have Lived Them      By: Sgt. Randy Sutton**



**From [Booklist](#)**

"We live in the worst twenty minutes of someone else's life," writes a cop, exemplifying the honesty and directness that characterize this book. Sutton, a detective in the Las Vegas Police Department, invited cops across the U.S. to write about themselves in such a way as to answer this question: "How can we show who we really are to citizens and cops alike?" The collection that resulted houses 51 responses, roughly divided into five categories: "Line of Duty," "The Beat," "War Stories," "Officer Down," and "Ground Zero: Stories of 9/11." No story is longer than 10 pages. Many are heartrending, especially the accounts of 9/11. Some are hilarious, like the way a cop convinced a nutcase that he had gotten rid of the space aliens infesting his house. All demonstrate that cops, who have reason to reflect on their experiences, are wonderful philosophers and storytellers. *Connie Fletcher*

**Product Description**

After September 11, 2001, Las Vegas Police Sergeant Randy Sutton began soliciting writing from law enforcement officers-his goal being to bridge the gap between the police and those they serve, with a book that offers a broad and thoughtful look at the many facets of police life. Hundreds of active and former officers from all over the United States responded: men and women from big cities and small towns, some who had written professionally, but most of whom were doing so for the first time.

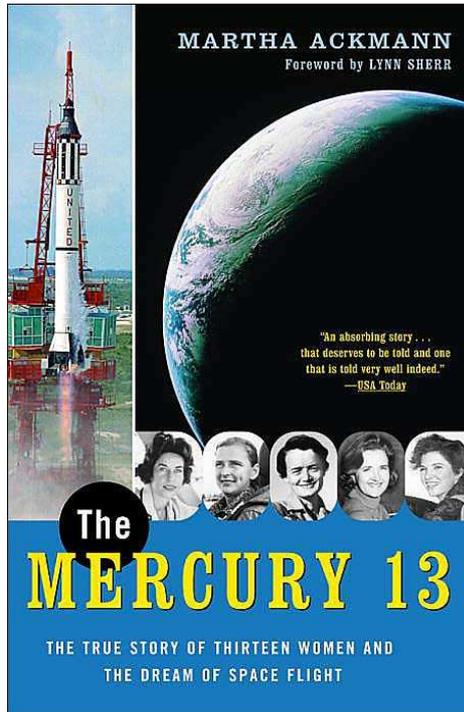
The result is True Blue, a collection of funny, charming, exciting, haunting stories about murder investigations, missing children, bungling burglars, car chases, lonely and desperate shut-ins, routine traffic stops, officers killed in the line of duty, and the life-changing events of September 11. Here, officers reveal their emotions as they recount the defining moments of their careers. Some of the stories include:

- Two cops' desperate search for a missing child feared kidnapped
- The revival of the one-month old baby who was shot in the face in a drive-by shooting
- A patrol officer's dramatic showdown with a hostage-holding gunman
- On-the-scene details of rescue and tragedy during the 9/11 terrorist attacks

## **About the Author**

**Randy Sutton** is a Senior Sergeant at the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Nevada. A member of the Screen Actors Guild, he has appeared in several big screen movies and HBO movies including *Casino*, *Fools Rush In*, and *The Road Home*. On television, he has appeared on *COPS*, *Americas Most Wanted*, and *Las Vegas*.

## **The Mercury 13: The True Story of Thirteen Women and the Dream of Space Flight**      **By: Martha Ackmann**



### **From Publishers Weekly**

In dynamic prose, Ackmann, senior lecturer in women's studies at Mount Holyoke College, relates the story of 13 female pilots who fought to become part of the nation's space program at its inception. Their tale is uplifting, a narrative of their dedication—perhaps obsession might be a better word—and sacrifice in an attempt to aid the nation in the space race against the Soviets and to experience the thrill of space flight. The story is also a depressing indictment of the rampant sexism that kept them from achieving their goal and kept the country from making productive use of their considerable talents. These 13 women, among the most accomplished pilots in the world at the time, went through many of the same challenging, even excruciating tests undergone by NASA's original seven male astronauts but, unlike the latter, the women did so in relative obscurity and often against the express wishes of all arms of the nascent space program. That each woman passed all the tests, often with scores

exceeding those of the males, carried absolutely no weight with an entrenched bureaucracy. Ackmann has done a magnificent job of gathering information, conducting interviews and weaving the strands into an utterly compelling book that deserves to be widely read well beyond the circles of the usual readers about the space program. 16 pages of photos not seen by PW.

### **Product Description**

In 1961, just as NASA launched its first man into space, a group of women underwent secret testing in the hopes of becoming America's first female astronauts. They passed the same battery of tests at the legendary Lovelace Foundation as did the Mercury 7 astronauts, but they were summarily dismissed by the boys' club at NASA and on Capitol Hill. The USSR sent its first woman into space in 1963; the United States did not follow suit for another twenty years.

For the first time, Martha Ackmann tells the story of the dramatic events surrounding these thirteen remarkable women, all crackerjack pilots and patriots who sometimes sacrificed jobs and marriages for a chance to participate in America's space race against the Soviet Union. In addition to talking extensively to these women, Ackmann interviewed Chuck Yeager, John Glenn, Scott Carpenter, and others at NASA and in the White House with firsthand knowledge of the program, and includes here never-before-seen photographs of the Mercury 13 passing their Lovelace tests.

Despite the crushing disappointment of watching their dreams being derailed, the Mercury 13 went on to extraordinary achievement in their lives: Jerrie Cobb, who began flying when she was so small she had to sit on pillows to see out of the cockpit, dedicated her life to flying solo missions to the Amazon rain forest; Wally Funk, who talked her way into the Lovelace trials, went on to become one of the first female FAA investigators; Janey Hart, mother of eight and, at age forty, the oldest astronaut candidate, had the political savvy to steer the women through congressional hearings and later helped found the National Organization for Women.

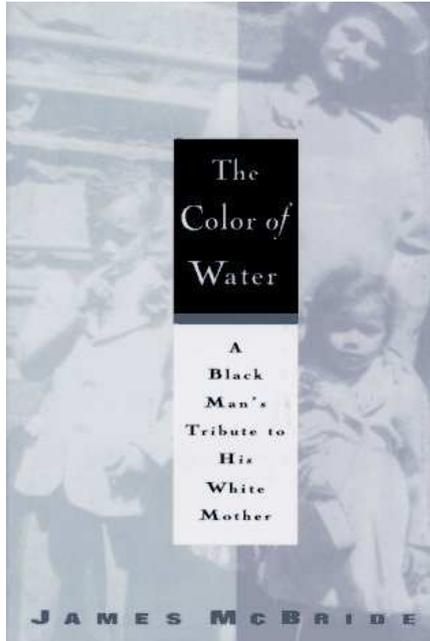
A provocative tribute to these extraordinary women, *The Mercury 13* is an unforgettable story of determination, resilience, and inextinguishable hope.

### **About the Author**

Martha Ackmann teaches at Mount Holyoke College, is a frequent columnist, and has written for publications including *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. Ackmann is co-recipient of the Amelia Earhart Research Scholars Grant. She lives in western Massachusetts.

Lynn Sherr, correspondent for the ABC News program *20/20*, covered NASA and the space program in the 1980s, anchoring and reporting on all the early shuttle missions, through the Challenger explosion and the subsequent Rogers Commission hearings. Sherr was a semifinalist in the (now abandoned) *Journalist-in-Space* competition. She lives in New York.

## **The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother By: James McBride**



### **Amazon.com Review**

Order this book ... and please don't be put off by its pallid subtitle, *A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*, which doesn't begin to do justice to the utterly unique and moving story contained within. *The Color of Water* tells the remarkable story of Ruth McBride Jordan, the two good men she married, and the 12 good children she raised. Jordan, born Rachel Shilsky, a Polish Jew, immigrated to America soon after birth; as an adult she moved to New York City, leaving her family and faith behind in Virginia. Jordan met and married a black man, making her isolation even more profound. The book is a success story, a testament to one woman's true heart, solid values, and indomitable will. Ruth Jordan battled not only racism but also poverty to raise her children and, despite being sorely tested, never wavered. In telling her story--along with her son's--*The Color of Water* addresses racial identity with compassion, insight, and

realism. It is, in a word, inspiring, and you will finish it with unalloyed admiration for a flawed but remarkable individual. And, perhaps, a little more faith in us all. --*This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.*

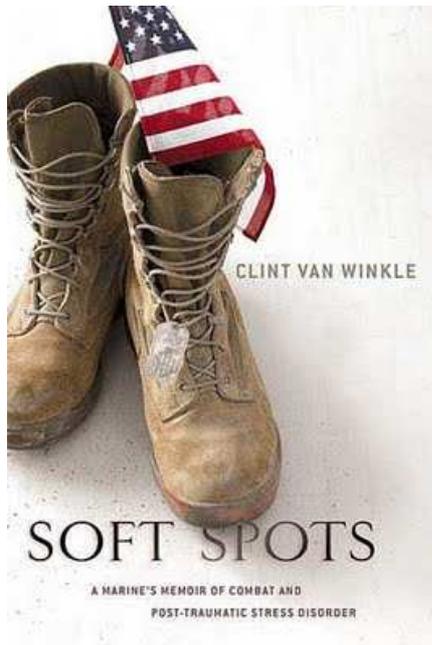
### **Product Description**

A young African-American man describes growing up in an all-black Brooklyn housing project, one of twelve children of a white mother and black father, and discusses his mother's contributions to his life and coming to terms with his confusion over his own identity. 75,000 first printing. \$50,000 ad/promo. Tour.

### **About the Author**

James McBride is an award-winning musician as well as a former staff writer for *The Boston Globe*, *People*, and *The Washington Post*. --*This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.*

## **Soft Spots: A Marine's Memoir of Combat and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder** **By: Clint Van Winkle**



### **From Publishers Weekly**

This memoir of combat in Iraq, and the post-traumatic stress disorder that followed, contains more literary touches than most, and its an admirable effort. Marine sergeant Van Winkle (who earned an M.A. in creative writing after returning from Iraq) emphasizes that every marines desire was not to spread freedom but to come home alive, and while the book describes some firefights, there are even more incidents of Van Winkle and his comrades blazing away at vehicles or distant figures only to discover they had killed civilians. After discharge, fearful memories and violent rages drove him to seek help from a surprisingly unhelpful V.A., but the passage of time, a few sympathetic therapists and a loving wife set him right. The text jumps back and forth between Van Winkles war experiences and postwar life, when marines from his unit, some dead, reappear to badger him. Most readers will forgive this

exercise in creative writing techniques because it presents a vivid picture of what many vets endure. (Mar.)

### **Product Description**

***A powerful, haunting, provocative memoir of a Marine in Iraq—and his struggle with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in a system trying to hide the damage done***

Marine Sergeant Clint Van Winkle flew to war on Valentine's Day 2003. His battalion was among the first wave of troops that crossed into Iraq, and his first combat experience was the battle of Nasiriyah, followed by patrols throughout the country, house to house searches, and operations in the dangerous Baghdad slums.

But after two tours of duty, certain images would not leave his memory—a fragmented mental movie of shooting a little girl; of scavenging parts from a destroyed, blood-spattered tank; of obliterating several Iraqi men hidden behind an ancient wall; and of mistakenly stepping on a “soft spot,” the remains of a Marine killed in combat. After his return home, Van Winkle sought help at a Veterans Administration facility, and so began a maddening journey through an indifferent system that promises to care for veterans, but in fact abandons many of them.

From riveting scenes of combat violence, to the gallows humor of soldiers fighting a war that seems to make no sense, to moments of tenderness in a civilian life ravaged by flashbacks, rage, and doubt, *Soft Spots* reveals the mind of a soldier like no other recent memoir of the war that has consumed America.

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Clint Van Winkle served for eight years in the United States Marine Corps, earning the rank of sergeant. While in Iraq he served as an Amphibious Assault Vehicle section leader, attached to Lima Company 3rd BN 1st Marines, and commanded eighteen other Marines. After two tours of duty, he returned to earn a BA in English from Arizona State University, then a MA in Creative Writing and Media from the University of Wales-Swansea, and began to publish pieces of this book in literary magazines. He lives with his wife in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Marine Sergeant Clint Van Winkle flew to war on Valentine's Day 2003. His battalion was among the first wave of troops that crossed into Iraq, and his first combat experience was the battle of Nasiriyah, followed by patrols throughout the country, house to house searches, and operations in the dangerous Baghdad slums.

But after two tours of duty, certain images would not leave his memory—a fragmented mental movie of shooting a little girl; of scavenging parts from a destroyed, blood-spattered tank; of obliterating several Iraqi men hidden behind an ancient wall; and of mistakenly stepping on a “soft spot,” the remains of a Marine killed in combat. After his return home, Van Winkle sought help at a Veterans Administration facility, and so began a maddening journey through an indifferent system that promises to care for veterans, but in fact abandons many of them.

Van Winkle's *Soft Spots* is a powerful, haunting, provocative memoir of a Marine in Iraq—and his struggle with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in a system trying to hide the damage done. From riveting scenes of combat violence, to the gallows humor of soldiers fighting a war that seems to make no sense, to moments of tenderness in a civilian life ravaged by flashbacks, rage, and doubt, *Soft Spots* reveals the mind of a soldier like no other recent memoir of the war that has consumed America.

"Nothing gets held back in *Soft Spots*, Clint Van Winkle's account of his two years of duty as a Marine sergeant in Iraq. He describes the exhilaration of being in a place where he was authorized to kill and where freedom was, in a sense, absolute—precisely because he could die at any moment. We hear about attacks on Iraqis who may or may not have been civilians, and later of the ignorance he finds on a college campus at home . . . This ambiguity stems from the nature of the war he fought. The soldiers lived in an almost hermetically sealed society and in a state of near-constant fear and rage. And they had unmatched lethal firepower at their command. 'My war,' writes Van Winkle, 'was an impersonal war full of indiscriminate firing and long-distance death.' But the ambiguity is also stylistic, an expression of the author's hallucinatory state of mind in the months following combat. He moves without warning from the streets of Phoenix to the sands of Iraq and back again. He finds himself full of unreasoning anger; he fights with his wife. Having finally realized that he's suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, he struggles to get help. Van Winkle's unseen dead have followed him home."—**Juliet Wittman, *The Washington Post***

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"Memoir of a Marine's service in Iraq and his ongoing recovery from post-traumatic stress disorder. At times, when he writes unflinchingly about the inner conflicts that compelled him to tell his story, Van Winkle's prose crackles with Exleyesque intensity and black humor. He wanted to be one of those 'street fighters, thugs, drunks, and rednecks' who constitute typical Marines, he declares. When he deployed to Iraq in 2003 he was. He walked the talk, as full of bravado and guff as any of his buddies, whose lewd jokes and crude games made the day-to-day horrors of war more bearable. He couldn't seem to find his place back in civilian life without them . . . when [Van Winkle] focuses on his emotions, confronting his doubts about the war and his guilt for doubting it while Marines are still fighting and dying in it, he earns the hard-boiled edge of his prose. At its best, a powerful reminder of the human cost of the war."—*Kirkus Reviews*

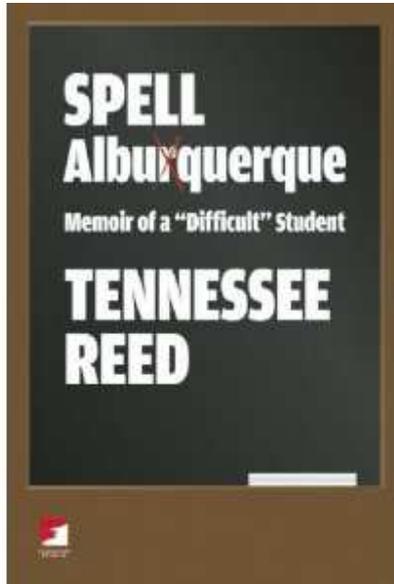
"In this moving account of one soldier's experience in Iraq and his resulting post-traumatic stress disorder, Van Winkle seamlessly interweaves battle stories, flashbacks, panic attacks, and trips made in vain to obtain help at the Veterans Administration. Deeply affected by the horrors he witnessed, Van Winkle was shuttled through an ineffectual system that often leaves vets helpless and frustrated. Iraq veterans and anyone who has experienced PTSD will find much to admire in this slim but accomplished memoir."—Elizabeth Brinkley, *Library Journal*

"This memoir of combat in Iraq, and the post-traumatic stress disorder that followed, contains more literary touches than most, and it's an admirable effort. Marine sergeant Van Winkle (who ear

## **About the Author**

CLINT VAN WINKLE served for eight years in the United States Marine Corps, earning the rank of sergeant. While in Iraq he served as an Amphibious Assault Vehicle section leader, attached to Lima Company 3rd BN 1st Marines, and commanded eighteen other Marines. After two tours of duty, he returned to earn a BA in English from Arizona State University, then a MA in Creative Writing and Media from the University of Wales-Swansea, and began to publish pieces of this book in literary magazines. He lives with his wife in Chesapeake, Virginia.

## Spell Albuquerque: Memoir of a “Difficult” Student    By: Tennessee Reed



### Product Description

“Tennessee Reed is a brand new star in the galaxy of our spirit—shining for all of our people.”—Simon Ortiz, author of *Telling and Showing Her*

“Reed writes with clarity, wit, and wonder—and with an open-hearted passion that disarms, refreshes, and delights.”—Al Young, author of *Something About the Blues*

“I’m not like them,” Tennessee Reed would tell her teachers to get them to see that the approach they used for students with “normal” brains didn’t always work for her. As it turned out, she was different in quite a

few other ways as well, including the great reserves of courage she could call upon to fight an educational system that often defined her disabilities as laziness or stupidity.

The daughter of writer/choreographer Carla Blank and novelist Ishmael Reed, Tennessee was diagnosed at an early age with several language-based learning disorders. The bottom line, the experts agreed, was that she would never read or write. Within a few years, however, she published her first book of poetry. By the time she was a teenager, she was writing the text for Meredith Monk performances and traveling the world to read her poems.

*Spell Albuquerque* is an inspiring memoir of one woman’s struggle to overcome racism and institutional authority and to achieve what everyone said was impossible.

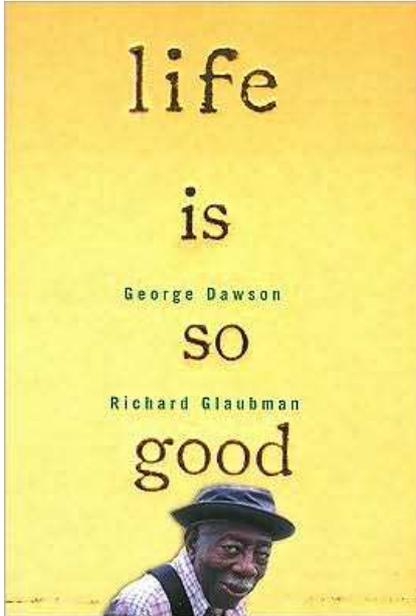
**Tennessee Reed** is the author of five books of poetry, including *City Beautiful*, *Airborne*, and *Electric Chocolate*. She is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, and has a master’s degree from Mills College.

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**Life is So Good**

**By: George Dawson and Richard Glaubman**



### **From Publishers Weekly**

A 101-year-old retired laborer who enrolled in a literacy class near his Dallas, Tex., home at the age of 98, George Dawson now reads and writes on a third-grade level. From Dawson's eloquent words, co-writer Glaubman, a Seattle elementary school teacher, has fashioned two engrossing stories. First is the inspiring saga of how someone who was the grandson of a slave managed to navigate the brutally segregated small Texas town of Marshall, where Dawson was born, without losing his integrity or enjoyment of life. Although he worked from an early age and was never able to attend school, Dawson credits his strong family, especially his father, for giving him the skills to survive. His father told him to work hard, to do no wrong and always to avoid trouble with white people--advice that was brutally underscored the day he and his father witnessed a white mob lynching a black neighbor. The other theme running through these recollections is the institutionalized racism of the American South. Hardened to the entrenched discrimination

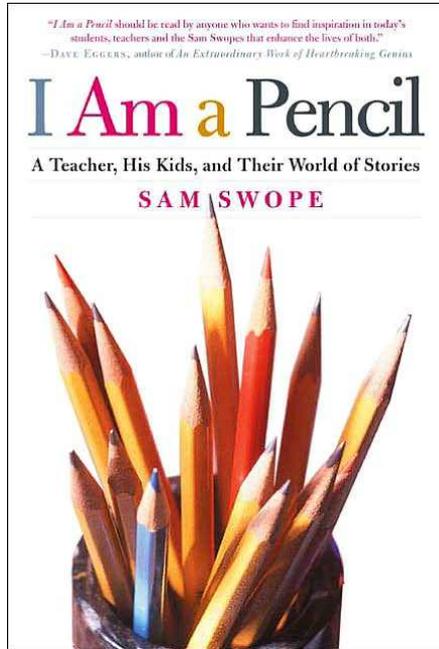
that excluded him from good jobs and "white" restaurants and rest rooms, Dawson protested just once, when a woman for whom he was doing yard work expected him to eat with her dogs. Despite the harsh conditions of his life, he considers himself fortunate to have enjoyed food, housing, friends and family (he has outlived four wives and fathered seven children). This is an astonishing and unforgettable memoir. Agent, Harriet Wasserman. (Feb.)

### **Product Description**

In this remarkable book, 103-year-old George Dawson, a slave's grandson who learned to read at age 98, reflects on his life and offers valuable lessons in living as well as a fresh, firsthand view of America during the twentieth century. Richard Glaubman captures Dawson's irresistible voice and view of the world, offering insights into humanity, history, hardships, and happiness. From segregation and civil rights, to the wars, presidents, and defining moments in history, George Dawson's description and assessment of the last century inspires readers with the message that--through it all--has sustained him: "Life is so good. I do believe it's getting better."

### **About the Author**

George Dawson lives in Dallas, Texas.



### **From Publishers Weekly**

Children's book writer Swope (*The Araboolies of Liberty Street*, etc.) was in a slump. And what better way to liven things up than by accepting an offer to teach a 10-day writing workshop to a class of third-graders in Queens, New York City, a prime destination for immigrants to the U.S. and one of the world's most ethnically diverse areas? Swope became so intrigued by the children, he devoted himself for the next three years to teaching them, unpaid. This delightful, sometimes heartbreaking work relates how, as Swope taught, his writing lessons extended into story-writing collaborations with his students, lessons in how to draw a tree and assignments to play in the snow and write about it. Swope's affection for the kids involved him deeply in their lives, which were often ridden with familial stress. His teaching (and writing) approach is seriously playful; he bestows on his students the power of words (as when Miguel, infuriated by his home life, uses the word "stalwart" to keep himself from giving up during troubled times).

Swope shows how children flourish when their imaginations are nurtured and they are challenged to find inner discipline and write what they see as truth. He also reveals the painful seesaw of hope and limitations in their lives.

### **Product Description**

**"Swope's marvelous, moving book revives the teaching memoir . . . And takes it to new realms of tenderness, insight and humanity." -Phillip Lopate**

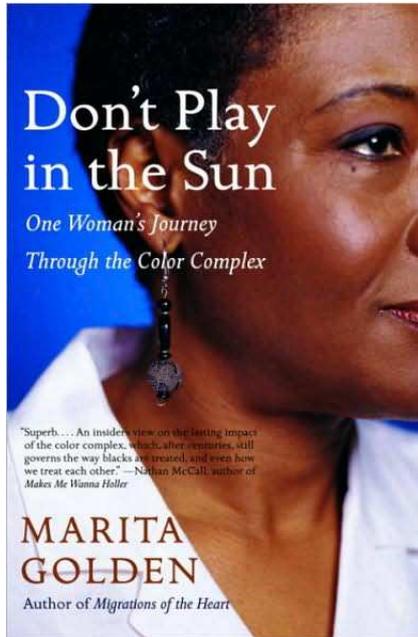
In 1995, writer Sam Swope gave a workshop to a third-grade class in a Queens school bursting at the seams with kids from around the world. So enchanted was he with his twenty-eight students that he "adopted" the class for three years, teaching them to write stories and poems. *I Am a Pencil* is the story of his years with this very special group of students. It is as funny, warm, heartbreaking, and hopeful as the children themselves.

Swope follows his colorful troop of resilient writers from grades three to five, coaxing out their stories, watching talents blossom, explode, and sometimes fizzle. We meet Cindy (whose mom was a Taoist priestess), Brian (who cannot seem to tell the truth), and Lourdes (a wacky Dominican chatterbox). Preparing his students for a world of adult dangers, Swope is astonished by their courage, their humanity, and most of all, their strength. *I Am a Pencil* is a book about the power and magic of imagination, providing a unique window on the immigrant experience as seen through the lives of children.

### **About the Author**

**Sam Swope** is the author of several very well-received children's books, including *The Araboolies of Liberty Street*, *The Krazees*, and *Gotta Go! Gotta Go!*, and of the soon-to-be published *Jack and the Seven Deadly Giants*. He lives in New York City.

## Don't Play in the Sun: One Woman's Journey Through the Color Complex By: Marita Golden



### From Publishers Weekly

Golden paints an intimate self-portrait of her life as a dark-complexioned black woman and invites readers to take a behind-the-scenes look at the twisted and emotionally charged path of color-based discrimination that began when she was warned not to play in the sun. She succinctly details how the "light is right, black get back" mentality has permeated the African diaspora, its invasion of black institutions and how it sits just below the radar in Hollywood, athletics, news coverage and music videos. She includes stories from dozens of friends, acquaintances and experts, which as a whole suggest that blacks the world over may have been traumatized as much by colorism as they have by racism and colonialism. And with the grace of being faithful to one's own experience, Golden firmly plants her audience in her controversial dark skin. During a fifth-grade square dance, a popular young white boy rejects her black hand in disgust. At 19, in the wake of the black consciousness movement, Golden checks her face and

Afro in the mirror and for the first time, "weeping with appreciation," "loves" what she sees—and goes on to form her own prejudices (since worked-through) against the lighter-skinned. Erudite, self-aware and thorough, Golden makes a knowing guide to thorny psychosocial territory.

### Product Description

*"Don't play in the sun. You're going to have to get a light-skinned husband for the sake of your children as it is."*

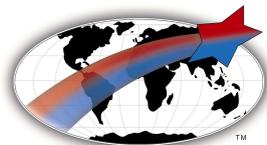
In these words from her mother, novelist and memoirist Marita Golden learned as a girl that she was the wrong color. Her mother had absorbed "colorism" without thinking about it. But, as Golden shows in this provocative book, biases based on skin color persist—and so do their long-lasting repercussions.

Golden recalls deciding against a distinguished black university because she didn't want to worry about whether she was light enough to be homecoming queen. A male friend bitterly remembers that he was teased about his girlfriend because she was too dark for him. Even now, when she attends a party full of accomplished black men and their wives, Golden wonders why those wives are all nearly white. From Halle Berry to Michael Jackson, from Nigeria to Cuba, from what she sees in the mirror to what she notices about the Grammys, Golden exposes the many facets of "colorism" and their effect on American culture. Part memoir, part cultural

history, and part analysis, **Don't Play in the Sun** also dramatizes one accomplished black woman's inner journey from self-loathing to self-acceptance and pride.

### **About the Author**

Marita Golden has written both fiction and nonfiction, including **Migrations of the Heart**, **A Miracle Every Day**, and **Saving Our Sons**. She is the editor of **Wild Women Don't Wear No Blues: Black Women Writers on Love, Men, and Sex**, and the coeditor of **Gumbo: An Anthology of African American Writing**. She is the founder and CEO of the Hurston/Wright Foundation, which supports African American writers, and lives in Maryland.



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Phone: 773-463-6374 Fax: 773-463-0429  
Email: [contactus@betances.com](mailto:contactus@betances.com) [www.betances.com](http://www.betances.com)

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## **Melba Patillo Beals: A Shero for All Seasons**

**By: Dr. Samuel Betances, Senior Diversity Consultant, Educator,  
Motivational Speaker and Author**

Email: [samuel@betances.com](mailto:samuel@betances.com)

Melba Patillo Beals is one of my *sheroes*. You must meet her. She is both amazing and inspiring! Melba and eight other African American youth volunteered to desegregate Central High School (CHS) in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957. She had no idea just how dangerous or meaningful that mission would be. Her decision to attend and the fierce opposition to integration by the white citizens of the city, the Governor, and racists from neighboring states put Melba and eight other high school teens (labeled the *Little Rock Nine*) on a collision course of historic proportions. Even the President of the United States got into the dispute supporting Melba's and her friend's Constitutional right to attend the all-white high school.

The Supreme Court had ruled on May 17, 1954 that racial segregation was inherently unequal. Three years later, Melba and her friends volunteered to be the first to attend the all-white school as the laws allowed. The Governor, however, opposed such a move and sent members of the Arkansas National Guard to block their entry. He inflamed the passions of the white majority opposed to integration. Ugly mobs threatening violence gathered in front of CHS to stop the teens from going in. The Little Rock Nine arrived, but quickly had to flee for their lives. The story made national and international headlines.

President Eisenhower stepped into the fray, siding with the Little Rock Nine. He forced Governor Faubus to remove the National Guard troops from blocking the entrance to CHS and allow the students to enter the buildings (a governor of a state must enforce not disobey federal laws). With US Army military escorts Melba and her friends were reluctantly permitted entry into the school. Melba quickly found out that getting into CHS was the easy part. Once in the buildings the nine students suffered racist - driven, violence, harassment, and tortuous persecution from the white students.

The awful truth is that a lot of whites preferred Melba and her friends dead rather than to have their presence "pollute" their racially exclusive high school. The students, teachers and administrators, police, the religious leaders, merchants, and political leaders of the city and the state; were all fiercely opposed to having black students attend CHS. However, Melba and her eight partners, with the support of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the courts, family members, and sheer will power to pursue justice through a quality education would not be denied.

White parents taught their children attending CHS how to express hatred by inflicting physical pain and emotional injury on the black students. The plan was to hurt and intimidate the nine students into quitting. The teachers formed part of the conspiracy. When the assaults began, the police looked the other way. The few teachers and students who wanted to do the right thing were frustrated and prohibited from helping – or else. Nevertheless, a few took the risks and are celebrated by Melba in her book.

Read her book, **Warriors Don't Cry**, to walk with Melba through the halls of the high school from hell as she describes her daily struggles to stay alive and excel. She will become your *shero* as well. Melba was only 15 when the struggles to get a quality education began. Her losses were staggering. She lost her innocence, naiveté, and peace of mind. Her faith was put to the test big time. The experience punched holes in her self-confidence. Salt was poured into her wounds. She suffered indignities that made shambles of her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, cheapened her humanity, and endangered her safety and that of her family. The pain would not stop. It became so unbearable – that she thought of killing herself. Here is a list of some of what she experienced:

- Chased by mobs shouting racial slurs
- Barely escaping the clutches of a rapist
- Harassing phone calls at all hours of the night
- Having home under KKK surveillance 24/7
- Realizing that the police were part of the problem
- Dispersion of friends to different hostile classrooms
- Denial of participating in extra-curricular activities
- Suspension threats for acts of self-defense
- Taunts to invite aggression leading to expulsion
- Teachers refusing to help victims or to discipline culprits
- Helplessly watching friends get assaulted
- Stabbings with pencils and other sharp objects
- Tripping on the legs of bullies
- Dodging burning rolls of toilet paper while on stalls
- Being shoved down stairs cases
- Befriended then rejected by students to cause pain
- Punched while walking through school hallways
- Wiping spit from face
- Finding locker broken into and stuff missing
- Discovering peanut butter and broken glass on seat
- Clothing damaged by ink, urine and smelly filth
- Slaps in the face
- Gym showers suddenly turned to hot scalding levels
- Clothes taken from gym shower area put in toilets
- Deflecting from face exploding fire crackers tied to wires

- Losing friends who did not want to be in harm's way
- Seeing mom lose her job over school integration
- Black community anger over making waves
- Coping with crisis of her parent's divorce

Melba confided in her beloved grandmother India about her desire to end it all through suicide. The two had a heart to heart talk on the outcome of such a decision. Snapping out of her desire to call it quits; Melba shares the meaning of her relationship to her family and how she became resilient and motivated to continue in her quest to excel:

**During those days I felt close to her, and I knew I had been silly for wanting to give up. Several times she looked at me and said, “Don’t you know, child, how much I love you, how much your mama loves you? Whenever you think about going away from this earth, think about how you’d break my heart and your brother’s heart. You might as well take your mother with you because she’d be beside herself.” ...She made me get a project I really liked and encouraged me to keep on top of it. I chose the blast-off of the Explorer, the satellite that put our country into the space race...Grandma studied up on the topic, and we talked for hours while she taught me how to do the quilting for Mother’s birthday present.**

Melba returns to the tortuous conditions at CHS because she was loved by her family. Looking up to her loved ones meant getting down to the difficult work of excelling in school in spite of the adversity. Melba wanted an education as much as, if not more than, a racist society did not want her to have it. She knew more education meant having more options. Getting out of oppressive circumstances required putting up with the painful reality impacting her and the other eight students. She put her life on the line to have access to what too many of us take for granted and do not always take seriously. Education is the passport out of ignorance, out of poverty, and out of hostile environments. It will also allow you to work where you live to dismantle walls of separation with educated people from every identity group in the community.

I have read her memoirs, **Warriors Don’t Cry**, *twice* and recommend that you read it at least once. In spite of their abuse and emotional turmoil Melba and her peers finished that awful school year and advanced the cause of civil rights in our country. The Little Rock Nine are recognized as civil rights champions in the annals of history in the USA.

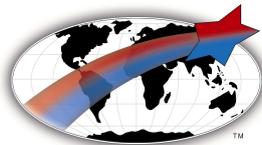
Go through the book and then let her book go through you. Feel the power of Melba being hated and refusing to hate in return. Apply her principles of resiliency and learn to bounce back from adversity. Adversity and not the easy life will build and shape your character. The ugly, horrible, abusive stuff that’s causing injury

today – if it does not destroy you, will make you stronger tomorrow. That's' what happened to our shero.

Keep your eyes on the prize. When you get knocked down - get up. Refuse to stay on the ground. The harder Melba got hit the more determined her movements forward became. Strip yourself from crippling excuses that frustrate your journey to the head of the class. Quit making a career of indulging in self-pity. Emulate Melba. She gave her family and those yearning for a more just society, the gift of an educated self. Do likewise. Live the truism: "Flee not from the storm; rather learn to dance in the rain." Dare to thrive, achieve, and excel in the face of dangerous distractions in hostile surroundings and against painful obstacles in your path. *And, may her force be with you!*



Dr. Samuel Betances is a motivational speaker, a Diversity/Inclusion consultant and excellent workshop facilitator. His presentations are insightful, uplifting and entertaining. Dr. Betances' personal journey from dropping out of high school to earning a Doctorate from Harvard is compelling and has inspired books and articles he has authored on how to excel in school. A skillful sociologist and a teacher of the tough topics, Dr. Betances guides willing learners in his diversity intelligence training events to add competencies to their leadership tool-kit for achieving mission excellence. He has worked throughout the USA, its Territories and in many different countries.



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**Email: [contactus@betances.com](mailto:contactus@betances.com) [www.betances.com](http://www.betances.com)**