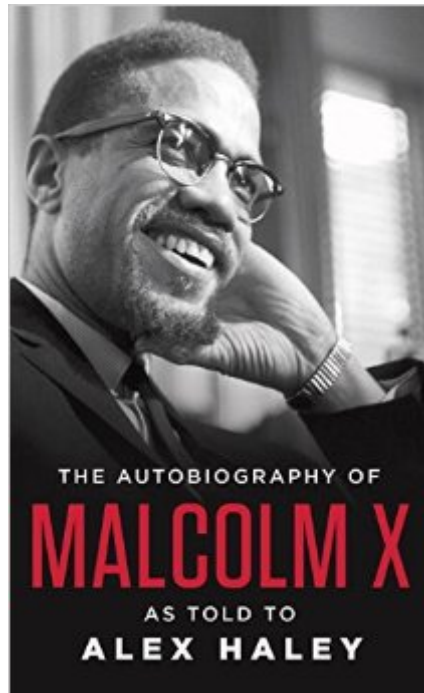




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The Autobiography Of Malcolm X: As Told To Alex Haley



Synopsis

ONE OF TIME'S TEN MOST IMPORTANT NONFICTION BOOKS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY In the searing pages of this classic autobiography, originally published in 1964, Malcolm X, the Muslim leader, firebrand, and anti-integrationist, tells the extraordinary story of his life and the growth of the Black Muslim movement. His fascinating perspective on the lies and limitations of the American Dream, and the inherent racism in a society that denies its nonwhite citizens the opportunity to dream, gives extraordinary insight into the most urgent issues of our own time. The Autobiography of Malcolm X stands as the definitive statement of a movement and a man whose work was never completed but whose message is timeless. It is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand America. Praise for The Autobiography of Malcolm X "Malcolm X's autobiography seemed to offer something different. His repeated acts of self-creation spoke to me; the blunt poetry of his words, his unadorned insistence on respect, promised a new and uncompromising order, martial in its discipline, forged through sheer force of will." • Barack Obama, *Dreams from My Father* "Extraordinary . . . a brilliant, painful, important book." • The New York Times "A great book . . . Its dead level honesty, its passion, its exalted purpose, will make it stand as a monument to the most painful truth." • The Nation "The most important book I'll ever read, it changed the way I thought, it changed the way I acted. It has given me courage I didn't know I had inside me. I'm one of hundreds of thousands whose lives were changed for the better." • Spike Lee "This book will have a permanent place in the literature of the Afro-American struggle." • I. F. Stone

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Customer Reviews

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

“Malcolm X’s autobiography seemed to offer something different. His repeated acts of self-creation spoke to me; the blunt poetry of his words, his unadorned insistence on respect, promised a new and uncompromising order, martial in its discipline, forged through sheer force of will.”
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“Extraordinary . . . a brilliant, painful, important book.”
•The New York Times
“A great book . . . Its dead level honesty, its passion, its exalted purpose, will make it stand as a monument to the most painful truth.”
•The Nation
“The most important book I’ve ever read, it changed the way I thought, it changed the way I acted. It has given me courage I didn’t know I had inside me. I’m one of hundreds of thousands whose lives were changed for the better.”
•Spike Lee
“This book will have a permanent place in the literature of the Afro-American struggle.”
•I. F. Stone

Let me be crystal clear and extremely frank in this review. The Autobiography of Malcolm X is my FAVORITE book and, I believe, one of the most important books written in the 20th Century. There

have been many printings of this book and they have had slight alterations throughout their publishing. The original 1965 edition came with photos. There have always been three missing chapters that are still held by a private owner. However, Penguin Modern Classics has reprinted this essential piece of literature anew-WITHOUT THE ORIGINAL EPILOGUE or Ossie Davis' contributions to the work. This means, essentially, THAT THE ASSASSINATION HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE BOOK! Reading this version of the book will leave the reader wondering how Malcolm was assassinated, who was responsible and so forth. In addition, the first page of the book is a generalizing synopsis that has the audacity to claim that Malcolm advocated change through the vehicle of violence. Anyone who has read the complete Malcolm X Autobiography in depth knows fully well that this is untrue, an absolute falsity and misrepresentation that can lead to dangerous miscalculations. Omitting the Epilogue, for a topic this serious, is not only censorship, but one must conclude that it was done intentionally. If it was done intentionally, the only real motive could be to mislead a new generation of people trying to learn THE TRUTH about Malcolm. It's a shame that they won't be able to find all of it in his own book!

This man is amazing and yes angry. Once he opened his mind to the true characteristics of Islam his heart changed. Unfortunately Malcolm X was the mouthpiece for Elijah Muhammad. Malcolm X grew the Nation of Islam in the United States making Elijah Muhammad an important figure in the Nation of Islam. Malcolm had to confront his own blind devotion and belief in Elijah Muhammad. Malcolm X had the mind of a brilliant scholar or lawyer and helped build most of the mosques in the U.S. His autobiography is shocking and telling and what he learned and knew of white people is appalling. Raw and real are words that adequately describe this autobiography of Malcolm X.

Excellent Book! Very compelling. I recommend this book to anyone interested in learning more about civil rights and the history of America. This book gives a very detailed account of Malcolm's life - but more importantly, clarifies his positions on topics such as; race, politics and white supremacy. Alex Haley does a great job of telling Malcolm's story from a boy growing up in Detroit to his time spent in Harlem and Boston. More importantly, he takes the reader on a journey that connects key events in Malcolm's life which would help one understand Malcolm's often extremist positions. Anyone who reads this book with an open mind will have a new found respect for this man and what he stood for.

I truly was inspired by this book

this is a book that was very important in my life and helped form my social conscience. i wish more people... anyway, there is a special 12 year old next door who is very interested in helping others and wants to grow up to be an attorney so she can help people. this book was part of my required reading in high school and community college (same wonderful teacher both places). i ordered a copy for my neighbor a couple of months ago. i think everyone should read it.

Powerful book about the black man in the sixties mostly. Malcolm X was a natural leader, and after his younger years he comes to the realization that became his dogma, that thanks to his controversial ways caused quite a stir among his peers, and America at large. Eventually people like him tend to get singled out and executed, for they cause unrest among the population. Intelligent man heading directly into danger as the years rolled by. The book is well written, and quite entertaining, for even before he became Malcolm X he was quite a character. Some men are destined to become legends, and Malcolm X was one of them. 4 Stars.

In today's political context where "purity tests" are often required for one to prove loyalty to a cause; Malcolm X was an example of what it means to let one's world vision become modified in the respect of fighting to create a better society. His story is also a tragic story of what happens when one "outshines the master". More than anything, the man lost his life due to jealousy and movement infighting, a scourge that still haunts social justice circles today. The Autobiography of Malcolm X is not to be treated as an instruction manual; but rather as a cautionary tale of personal growth.

What a great story! I've admired Malcolm X for quite some time, and this autobiography has been on the "To read" list for just about as long. An interesting and compelling book, well written by Alex Haley, detailing Mr. X' travails and philosophical evolution through life. Quite the read, a bit disturbing at times, and with a tragic ending, but well worth the time.

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