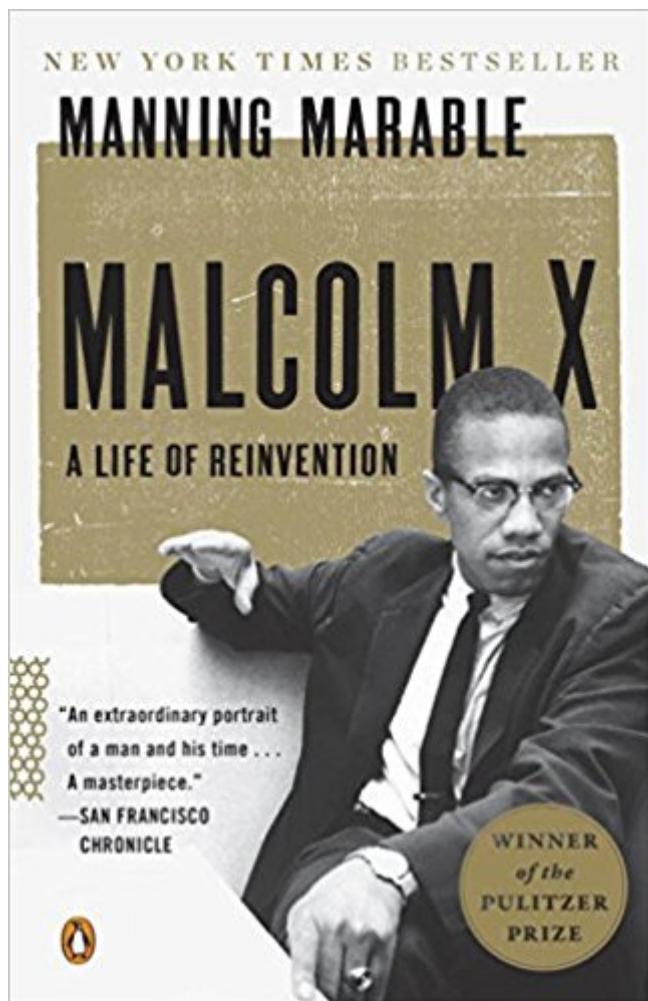


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Malcolm X: A Life Of Reinvention



Synopsis

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for History, the definitive biography of Malcolm X. Hailed as "a masterpiece" (San Francisco Chronicle), the late Manning Marable's acclaimed biography of Malcolm X finally does justice to one of the most influential and controversial figures of twentieth-century American history. Filled with startling new information and shocking revelations, Malcolm X unfolds a sweeping story of race and class in America. Reaching into Malcolm's troubled youth, it traces a path from his parents' activism as followers of Marcus Garvey through his own work with the Nation of Islam and rise in the world of black nationalism, and culminates in the never-before-told true story of his assassination. Malcolm X is a stunning achievement, the definitive work on one of our greatest advocates for social change.

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Customer Reviews

Malcolm X is etched in the American imagination and the American psyche in the particular and unyielding terms of radical and militant. Marable brings a lifetime of study to this biography, which is the crowning achievement of a magnificent career. • Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Harvard University

Manning Marable is the exemplary black scholar of radical democracy and black freedom in our time. His long-awaited magisterial book on Malcolm X is the definitive treatment of the greatest black radical voice and figure of the mid-twentieth century. Glory Hallelujah! • Cornel West, Princeton University

Malcolm X is his magnum opus, a work of

extraordinary rigor and intellectual beauty. | This majestic and eloquent tour de force will stand for some time as the definitive work on as enigmatic and electrifying a leader as has ever sprung from American soil. • Michael Eric Dyson, Georgetown University, author of *April 4, 1968* “It will be difficult for anyone to better this book... It is a work of art, a feast that combines genres skillfully: biography, true-crime, political commentary. It gives us Malcolm X in full gallop, a man who died for his belief in freedom. • The Washington Post “In his revealing and prodigiously researched new biography. . . Mr. Marable artfully strips away the layers and layers of myth that have been lacquered onto his subject’s life. • first by Malcolm himself in that famous memoir, and later by both supporters and opponents after his assassination. • Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times* “Unlike Bruce Perry’s 1991 biography, *Malcolm*, which entertained the most outlandish stories in an attempt to present a comprehensive portrait, Marable’s biography judiciously sifts fact from myth. • The Atlantic “Magisterial Marable’s biography is an exceedingly brave as well as a major intellectual accomplishment. • Boston Globe “Marable has crafted an extraordinary portrait of a man and his time. | A masterpiece. • San Francisco Chronicle “This book is a must read. • Ebony “Thankfully, we have Manning Marable’s new biography, *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention* • which is, simply put, a stunning achievement. • to help us better understand Malcolm’s complex life. • The Philadelphia Tribune “The book also has much to recommend it for its history of orthodox Islam, the perspective it offers on the black political movements of the 1950s and 1960s that changed America, and its insights into the development and inner workings of the Nation of Islam. • The Financial Times “Manning Marable’s scholarship was as provocative and profound as it was prodigious. • Newsday “[Marable] devoted his magnificent career • more than most scholars do • to living what he wrote and what he thought. His commitment not only to equality of opportunity but also to the exposure of falsehood and hypocrisy was a hallmark of his pathbreaking work. • The Chronicle of Higher Education “Marable accomplishes the difficult task of showing the bad boy of the civil rights era as an actual human being. . . Each page almost secretes the formidable research into hard facts. Marable lets the chips fall where they may because he is interested in the humanity of Malcolm X, as all true scholars should be. • New York Daily News “This is history at its

finest. •written with passion and attention and drive. It is a fitting testament to the lives and the legacies of both subject and author.

The Barnes and Noble Review.com • “Marable’s definitive biography is now the standard by which scholars can evaluate, not just what Malcolm X said, but what generations of others have said about him.” • The National • “This book is not the only representation of Manning’s brilliance; it is a culmination of a lifetime of scholarship and activism, a larger project devoted to telling the stories of a people engaged in an epic, painful and beautiful struggle for freedom.” • Black Voices.com • “This superbly perceptive and resolutely honest book will long endure as a definitive treatment of Malcolm’s life, if not of the actors complicit in his death.” • The Wilson Quarterly • “The book is cause for celebration . . . The book is full of revelations, big and small, and amounts to a full-on reconsideration of Malcolm’s life and death.” • Very Short List.com • “As Malcolm lived on through his best-selling autobiography, so will Marable, through his unmatched body of writing, his educational contributions, his illuminations on Malcolm X’s legacy and his devoted students.” • CNN.Com • “Manning was an unflinching and breathtakingly prolific scholar whose commitments to racial, economic, gender, and international justice were unparalleled . . . That we will have his long-anticipated, great and final work even as he leaves us is so classically, tragically appropriate.” • The Nation • “While Marable himself is irreplaceable, he has provided a foundation for future generations and will continue to shape our understanding of social change and justice.” • The Root.com • “A prolific scholar.” • The Columbia Record

Manning Marable (1951-2011) was M. Moran Weston and Black Alumni Council Professor of African American Studies and professor of history and public affairs at Columbia University. He was founding director of African American Studies at Columbia from 1993 to 2003, and directed Columbia’s Center for Contemporary Black History. The author of fifteen books, Marable was also the editor of the quarterly journal Souls.

With no hyperbole Marable’s last book provides a transformative view of Malcolm X ranging from little details to large consequential facts and events previously unknown to even a close follower of Malcolm X. Marable’s years of research and scholarship is on full display with this, at times challenging, biography. It provides a greater breadth and understanding of the man who has

become an international symbol and multicultural hero. During that myth building process the flesh and blood man was obscured. This book will help to reverse this dynamic by presenting several different sides to his personality, character and actions; none of which I will spoil in this review. As equally important, the reader is also given an understanding of why the image we have of Malcolm was developed. Why for example the old line that towards the end Malcolm X's and Martin Luther King Jr.'s thinking were gravitating towards each other is not especially accurate. Mr. Marable's reasonable conclusions, especially within the last chapters, are a welcome addition to this already groundbreaking work. There are however a few instances in which his opinion seem not only unsupported by the facts but come out of left field. Malcolm's evolving views on race are well known but just as interesting were his changing views about women. By the time he returned to Harlem from the Hajj his political and social views were in a state of flux that would continue until his murder. At that point the people that followed him out of the Nation of Islam had more in common with the Nation than they had with him. One difference in particular was his belief for a more inclusive role for women. This was one of the first stumbling points he faced when trying to build a working relationship between the members of his MMI mosque and secular civil rights organizations. Marable mentions Malcolm's deep affinity for the philosophy of Georg W. F. Hegel. Understandably than he wanted to synthesize these cultural differences and devise a workable situation. His inability to do this set the stage that led to his murder. I think it's fair to say whatever form of Islam Malcolm practiced throughout his life; it had the effect for him as a liberating consciousness. It was a medium he wanted to use to uplift people, work thorough their differences, soothe their anger and alienation with the aim of creating coherent moral and ethical societies. When traveling in the Middle East and Africa he met with groups that ran the religious and political spectrum within the Muslim community that often were openly hostile to each other. His attempt to meet with these various groups was not just for support of his goals of demanding human rights for African Americans but to replicate his American goals for synthesis but on an international scale. The fact of the matter is though many of his positions, but in particular his views about the role of women, were far more progressive than many Sunni Islamic communities that exist today. Were he to live longer he might have come across analogous problems on the international stage as the ones he faced in Harlem. He was very simply a man ahead of his time. This biography's disclosure of some pointed shortcomings makes his ability, as the title suggests, to continually reinvent himself all the more admirable. While the New York City Police Department and the FBI do not come off very well despite Marable's even handed assessment, it is the the Nation of Islam that rightfully comes under the most scrutiny. If Marable's years of research and numerous interviews with formerly

unwilling subjects about the Nation are true than he has brought forth a devastating indictment against the Nation. Not simply that it isn't a Islamic organization (at times the followers prayed towards Chicago instead of Mecca) and that its idiosyncratic tenants are ludicrous on its face and are tantamount to a cult. But far worse their institutionalized culture of physically, sexually and monetarily exploiting it's members while doling out severe violent penalties for even minor infractions. It's undeniably true the Nation succeeded in instilling a sense of pride, purpose and responsibility within its members. It appears though the Nation exploited that sense of pride within its members for its own short sighted aims. Marable's research explains how the Nation's leadership is as responsible for the murder as the individual members that carried it out. The Nation's positions have been shown repeatedly to be on the wrong side of history. What else needs to be said about an outfit that found common cause with neo-Nazi groups and the Klu Klux Klan? Read the book. It will stay with you. I was however disappointed with the Kindle edition. It's not just that there are no links to the footnotes/endnotes in the text, but no footnotes/endnotes at all.

A great comprehensive biography for a complex individual whom Ossie Davis called "...our own black shining Prince." The dedication and research that Manning Marable put into this book is simply exhaustive... and it shows. From womb to tomb, the life of Malcolm Little is traversed here; from Malcolm Little born in Omaha, Nebraska, to Detroit Red, to Malcolm X , to El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz. In contrast to the "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" by Alex Haley, Marable claims his "Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention" includes information on FBI and police surveillance, details from lost chapters that were not included in Haley's book, access to speeches prior to 1950 and more context into Malcolm's activities concerning MMI and OAAU. I see that this biography has come under criticism for potential inaccuracies. However, it is still a worthy read, as well as the published counter arguments and other biographies. One book or one author is not enough to contain this man and his transformation. It is up to the astute reader to disseminate and fashion together, from all sources, the legacy of Malcolm X.

Excellent book. If you've read the autobiography of Malcolm X, whether you liked it or not, this is a MUST READ!!!! It is a written as a biography not a semi-novel. Loaded with facts, and interesting quotes and interview from people whom until this book had remained silent, including Farrakhan.

If you've read the Autobiography and have some curiosity about the times, this is well worth a read. Marable does a good job on the Garveyite roots of Malcolm's thought, and you get an astute

(and detailed) description of his final years, trips abroad, efforts to start new organizations. This is a biography that is still fundamentally sympathetic, but determined not to skirt the problematic parts of its subject's life. There are gaps. The last half of the book is more reported than analyzed. Marable did a prodigious job assembling a virtually daily record of Malcolm's activities, but you miss the perspective he could have provided on the political ideas as ideas. It's also understandable that Marable was anxious to get out the original work he did on the assassination, but that really takes over the narrative of the last part of the book. And the NOI remains enigmatic throughout: you are given clues to how it operated, nationally and locally, but you have to work to pull them together. It's well worth searching for online videos as an adjunct to reading this book, as they give you a better sense of Malcolm's style and impact.

Malcolm X A Life Of Reinvention, by Manning Marable Where does one begin? I found this biography extraordinary. It is a wealth of information from the very first pages. It is a history lesson of a man's complete transformation. Malcolm X through completely believing in the struggles of blacks and working towards his numerous goals found himself and his way to the very end of his untimely assassination in 1965 at the young age of thirty-nine. The book goes through the years 1925 - 1965 beginning with the great migration of blacks from the southern states to the north - Chicago, Detroit Boston, Philadelphia and New York City among other places. It is a true story of race and class in America. The author accomplished this work without bias - the book is clear and concise and reflects where we are today as a country and how we came to this place. I highly recommend this book and rate it as one of best books I have read. "We declare our right on this earth to be a human being, to be respected as a human being, to be given the rights of a human being in this society, on this earth, in this day, which we intend to bring into existence by any means necessary." ~Malcolm X

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