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One Day It'll All Make Sense



Synopsis

From the hip hop icon, Hollywood star, and “a true artist and writer of deep talent” (James McBride, author of *The Color of Water*) a candid, New York Times bestselling memoir ranging from his childhood on Chicago’s South side and his emergence as one of rap’s biggest names. Common has earned a reputation in the hip-hop world as a conscious artist by embracing themes of love and struggle in his songs. His journey toward understanding is rooted in his relationship with a remarkable woman, his mother. Common holds nothing back in this gripping memoir, both provocative and funny. He tells what it was like for a boy with big dreams growing up on the South Side of Chicago. He reveals how he almost quit rapping after his first album sold only two thousand copies. He recounts his rise to stardom and talks about the challenges of balancing fame, love, and family. Through it all, Common emerges as a man in full. Rapper. Actor. Activist. But also father, son, and friend. His story offers a living example of how, no matter what you’ve gone through, one day it’ll all make sense.

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Customer Reviews

"Common has written a magnificent memoir. It states that it is a book about his fascinating life. That is true. More importantly, his story is the story of all young people trying to grow up. His saga reminds the reader that love liberates and poverty cripples. Common writes beautifully, like the poet he is." -Maya Angelou
Common distinguishes himself here as a true artist and a writer of deep talent. This book is the story of an artist in constant evolution, one who embodies the strength of the

brilliant woman that raised him, the love of the Southside Chicago land that spawned him, and the raw spirit of the pro basketball player who fathered him. I've always heard that the people of Southside Chicago were special. I'm glad their native son Common shows us why. --James McBride

Author of "The Color of Water""A thoughtful and beautiful book that tells us much more about Common... His mother's perspective takes this to another level." -Toure, author of "Who's Afraid of Post-Blackness""Raw in its honesty, profound in its insights, "One Day It'll All Make Sense" establishes Common as a voice that is as compelling on the page as it is on a record. This is not simply the story of an individual artist but a crucial page the history of hip hop itself." -Jelani Cobb, author of "The Substance of Hope""A powerful memoir that speaks to all audiences." -Queen Latifah

"Common is a 360-degree human being, and I don't say that about many people. He never needed to "pimp the hood" to achieve his deserved success. He is an eloquent and honorable role model and his memoir is a perfect example of his depth as a human being. In addition, reading about his childhood and upbringing in Chicago is really a trip - because we went through so many of the same experiences albeit decades apart. Chicago is still the roughest and primary "Institution of Hard Knocks," and if you can make it there, you can truly make it anywhere!" -Quincy Jones

Common was born Lonnie Rashid Lynn in Chicago March 13, 1972. Best known as a star recording artist and actor, he has also independently published children's books. He has a daughter Omoye Assata Lynn, born in 1997. Adam Bradley is the author of Book of Rhymes: The Poetics of Hip Hop and the co-editor of Ralph Ellison's Three Days Before the Shooting..., and Yale Anthology of Rap. He lives in Boulder with his wife.

While this review might be the kiss of death since I'm probably not the target audience, I have to say I thought this book was terrific. I didn't know much about Common, although I had heard about Fox News coverage of his visits to the White House. When I saw him on the Daily Show last night it became clear that this Common wasn't the same guy that was villified by Fox. Once I started the book, I couldn't put it down. While I probably disagree with most of his politics, the observations he had about fatherhood, responsibility and being a man were universal. I really enjoyed Common's writing style and the juxtapositioning of his Mother's comments throughout the book was priceless. Parts of the book were quite funny (like the story about Common being an ugly baby), but the overriding message of what personal responsibility and a Mother's love can accomplish was extremely inspirational. Common is a man of strong faith, while being open to other religious paths. He admits his mistakes and takes responsibility for them, while recognizing that we can all be better

people and have more that should unite us than divide us.

In an age where gangsta rap has become the face of hip-hop culture, and hip-hop culture is marketed and sold like a commodity by four or five white men who work for Clear Channel, it is refreshing to read a version of the black male experience that acknowledges our complex history and diversity in America. This is an autobiography written by a black intellectual who does not view himself as separate and apart from the vices and virtues of his community of origin. As a documentarian and participant in the streets of Chicago, Common's life journey demonstrates that black people can be "in it," but not "of it" by our own choosing. Hip-Hop transcends the boundaries of townships and voting districts, allowing us to do the same in our own lives and live out a reality greater than the typical negative stereotypes of crime, corrections, drugs, gun violence and misogyny. As the only child of a single mother, it was truly gratifying to read about the relationship between Common and his mother, and to also read their words and thoughts intertwined and interwoven from page-to-page and chapter-to-chapter. A lot of dudes can rap, but very few have their own voice. Common demonstrates himself to be one of the few chosen, in the spirit of transformative emcees like Rakim, Krs-One, Nas, the artist formerly known as Mos Def and Black Thought. In many respects, their lives have become greater than their art, allowing them to become Hip-Hop immortals.

Common is a great writer but what I enjoyed the most were the stories from his mother. One thing she said that stuck out in this book was "Your kids should fear you more than they fear their friends" or something to that affect. I learned so much about this man and it made me want to listen to his music. I've never been a Common fan because honestly I never heard his music, but I love true stories and this one was great

i love common as an artist, personally i think he is one of the top lyricists in the game of "hiphop today"....the book was ok but i felt it focused too much on his childhood and not enough on his life as an adult....i would have liked for him to have went into more detail about his successes and failure in the industry.. the only reason i bought the book was because he did an interview on a radio show and he talked about intimate details about dating Erykah Badu...and i am a huge Badu fan.....just wanted to see how far he would go with the details.....

Common has always been one of those people that you want to keep a watch on. His music, though

in the beginning, was a bit controversial has been inspiring and had a message that reached all people. In "One Day It'll All Make Sense", Common offers up himself and his mother provides a great backdrop to his story. I love the relationship between the both and how conscious Common is when expressing the loss of loved ones and the love that he has had for the women in his life. This book offers great life lessons for everyone, I will always remember the quote that his mother said about having friends and the importance of where to place them. I enjoyed reading and being introduced to the people that had an effect on Common, whether good or bad. I recommend this book because it is one that every person in their lives can identify with, no matter how old you are or your race, religion, or creed. Common writes in such a transparent and effortless way, that you cannot help but be engaged in what he has to say. Buy this book, you will not regret it.

I just finished this book and I guess I should start being honest in admitting that I am a big Common fan. This book was a fantastic read and I probably could have finished in a couple of days if I had the time to do so. I am most impressed with the honesty that Common exudes in telling his story. I feel that it would be easy for an artist who is primarily known now for his social work to lose sight of who he was on yesterday. Common never lost focus of who Rashid is and being anchored by Rashid, the good and bad and ups and downs, allows Common to not only be who he is today, but to be comfortable, pure and honest with who he is today. Reading this book made me go back and cop some previous Common albums that were not in my collection and boy am I glad I did so. If you are a fan of Common or even if you have heard negative things about him and who he is, I strongly suggest that you read this book and then see if your stance was correct. I would dare to say that you would not even want to judge him or anyone else for that matter. You would be more inclined to treat others with respect and judge less books by their covers. LOVE.

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