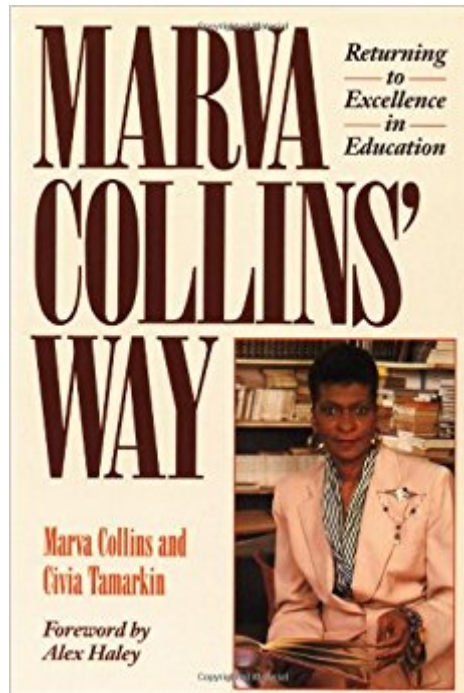




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Marva Collins' Way



Synopsis

"America would be infinitely better served if Marva Collins' philosophy of education somehow could become franchised and implemented on a national scale."--Alex Haley, author of *ROOTS* Marva Collins offers a beacon of hope in the midst of America's educational crises. *MARVA COLLINS' WAY* recounts Marva Collins' successful teaching strategies and offers inspirational advice on how to motivate children to fulfill their potential. This updated edition contains a new epilogue for parents and teachers. "The first things we are going to do here, children, is an awful lot of believing in ourselves." With these words, Marva Collins greets her students and opens them up to a potential many never thought possible. It is her constant "You can do it" that convinces her students there is nothing they cannot achieve. This independent-minded teacher's drive, courage, and dedication has helped her students reach high levels of accomplishment,. Her story can be any parent's or teacher's model. *MARVA COLLINS' WAY* is a prescription for effective teaching and graphic indictment of what is wrong with much of American education today. More than just an account of one teacher's struggles and successes, it demonstrates a teacher's technique that can be applied in every classroom and home. In 1981, this book was made into the TV movie *The Marva Collins Story* starring Cicely Tyson and Morgan Freeman.

Book Information

Paperback: 242 pages

Publisher: TarcherPerigee; 2nd edition (September 1, 1990)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0874775728

ISBN-13: 978-0874775723

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 76 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #79,388 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in *Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional U.S. > Midwest* #139 in *Books > Parenting & Relationships > Reference* #213 in *Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Education Theory > Philosophy & Social Aspects*

Customer Reviews

"Why is this book by Marva Collins so important? It is because this book represents her life, her convictions, and her work. Indeed, America would be infinitely better served if Marva Collins'

philosophy of education somehow could become franchised and implemented on a national scale." — Alex Haley, author of *ROOTS* "Collins' unswerving faith in the abilities of her students and her 'tough love' approach are inspirational." — *Library Journal* "Marva Collins has something to say to the nation's educators and anyone else interested in the education of children. It's refreshing to read about an educator's abiding belief in her students and to watch--through the pages of her book--as she turns hopeless, hostile youngsters into eager and ambitious achievers." — *The Detroit Free Press* "This is the book that motivated me to become a teacher and demonstrates the power that teachers and other role models can have on shaping the lives of children. Marva Collins is an inspiration and this book should be required reading for anyone interested in education." — *The Uncomfortable Optimist* "The success of Marva Collins' method has been astounding. Anyone who is teaching, who is considering teaching, anyone who is homeschooling, or who simply loves children, will find this book fascinating." — *The Foundation for Economic Education (FEE)* "This gifted dynamo of a teacher told the students in her first private, one-room Westside Preparatory School: 'I'm your friend and I'm going to help you all the time and I'm going to love you all the time. I love you already and I'm going to love you even when you don't love yourself.' Her method: to convince the children she cares; that they can trust her; that they can accomplish anything they want to; that learning to read is hard work but they will learn. Her promise: 'I will not allow you to fail.' Nothing can lessen the reader's admiration for a brave, brilliant woman who dares to believe in children when no one else will." — *Christian Science Monitor* "The Collins charisma makes for lively reading." — *Kirkus Reviews* "This book is a continuous inspiration to us showing how only one person's deep love and unwavering belief in her students' abilities made a world of difference in their lives." — *Heart of Inspiration* "At its best it may influence you, in whatever role you have with children or education, to raise the standards and to stand up to a failing system in whatever way is applicable in your life." — *The Thinking Mother*

Marva Collins taught school for two years in Alabama, then moved to Chicago, where she taught in public schools for 14 years. Her experiences in that system, coupled with her dissatisfaction with the quality of education that her two youngest children were receiving in prestigious private schools, convinced her that children deserved better than what was passing for acceptable education. She took the \$5,000 balance in her school pension fund and opened her own school on the second floor of her home. The Westside Preparatory School was founded in 1975 in Garfield Park, a Chicago inner-city area. During the first year, Collins took in learning disabled, problem children and even

one child who had been labeled by Chicago public school authorities as borderline retarded. At the end of the first year, every child scored at least five grades higher proving that the previous labels placed on these children were misguided. 60 Minutes, visited her school for the second time in 1996. That little girl who had been labeled as border line retarded, graduated from college Summa Cum Laude. Marva's graduates entered colleges and universities, such as Harvard, Yale, and Stanford. They became physicians, lawyers, engineers, and educators. In 1996 she began supervising three Chicago public schools that had been placed on probation. In 1981, she received the Award for Greatest Public Service Benefiting the Disadvantaged, an award given out annually by the Jefferson Awards. In 2004 she received a National Humanities Medal for her teaching and efforts at school reform.

First thing I have to mention is what an amazing woman Marva Collins is. Her love and dedication to her children and education is second to none. Reading this book you can't help but notice the small gestures - the touch on the shoulder, the mussing of the hair, the hugs, etc - the praise and affirmation, and her patience. If you're an educator, work in education, a parent, or a to be parent, this is a must read. So society makes it seem like the only reason our children aren't learning is because of the lack of tools, lack of technique, or socioeconomic backgrounds. But as this book makes clear, the key to education is the teacher, specifically, the teachers love of children and her belief that they can learn. Without that first step, all the tools, money, and technique in the world won't get us very far. Children, and people in general, learn from people we like.

Good book! I guess just don't always trust the seller's evaluation of the books condition or the photo of the book. Pictured is a hardcover - I got a paperback. Same text, though.

Had to read this for one of my education classes. One of my favorite assigned books I had to read. Very interesting perspective into the education system.

wow, a blue print for excellence in parenting kids through the education system.

This book should be required reading for every parent, teacher, mentor, and tutor--of whatever race or ethnicity-- in this country! Her "way" should be emulated by each and every adult who interacts with children. Thank you, Marva.

Great book!!

This book was recommended during a lecture by Dr. Tal Ben Shachar of Harvard University as the one book that parents and educators must read. I was not disappointed. The book was riveting. Ms. Collins' personal story, the saga of her journey as an educator and the anecdotes provided much food for thought. There is no one way to educate every child, but the approach espoused by Ms. Collins can and should be incorporated into every parent's and educator's repertoire. I highly recommend this book!

As a non teacher, I buy a copy for all of my teacher friends, to provide inspiration.

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