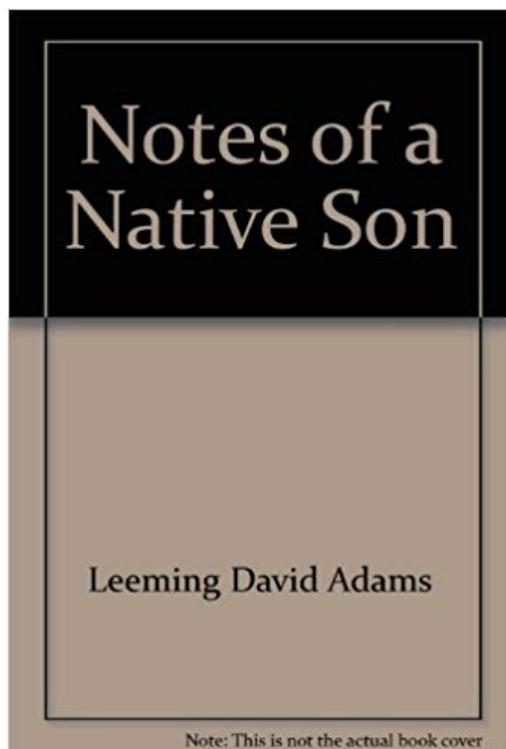


Notes of a native son *by* James Baldwin



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Originally published in 1955, James Baldwin's first nonfiction book has become a classic. These searing essays on life in Harlem, the protest novel, movies, and Americans abroad remain as powerful today as when they were written.



Reviews of the *Notes of a native son* *by* James Baldwin

Jugami

James Baldwin was years beyond his time. This book is a great example of that. Still reading it because I want to take my time to take in all of his very well written words and I even wrote notes in it as well. As you black woman living in America this book and many others by JB is a MUST! Really hope EVERYONE can read his words they will change you!!!

Onnell

This was my second book by James Baldwin and it is another very well written view of the 1960's and the role race played. So little has changed since then, Baldwin's observations are that much more insightful. He sees the racial divide so clearly, even as he was expending his thoughts on the core issues. The other book I read just before this one "The Fire Next Time" is a fully realized view and is my 1st pick of Baldwin's writing (so far). The premise that -white folks don't need to learn to accept black folks, instead can black folks accept white folks- continues to occupy my thoughts. I know have a concrete understanding of why it might be impossible to end all the racial injustice and, if we cannot, it's the lack of substance (of a soul) of white folks that will be to blame. Baldwin brought into focus Malcolm X's idea of -the white folk's house is on fire-, a truth that is at the heart of racial discrimination and at the heart of the deeply troubling rise of ignorance and hatred in the US and parts of Europe. Baldwin sees through the chaos and noise and articulates the problems so well, it's too bad his books aren't a part of every high school Social Studies program. But even that idea brings to mind a term I heard in the documentary "Accidental Courtesy" (at the table in Baltimore), "generational trauma", and that is also a very strong point that makes this mess we have now and have been "white-washing" for centuries all the more daunting to see how there ever could be racial parity and peace in the US.

James Baldwin is an extraordinary writer.

Skrimpak

Beside the subject matter being of such importance, the writing is breath taking. Baldwin draws the reader in with personal accounts and the goings-on of his thought process. Long after reading, his words come to mind. I loved this and appreciate the nuances related with each essay building on the next. I can't recommend this enough.

Benn

This book provides a great place for discussions on race in America, both past and present. I admit, however, that I will reread and mark many more passages for better understanding. It was with luck and amusement that I read a chapter on France since I'm heading there soon. My romantic expectations have hopefully become more realistic... I love Mr. Baldwin's frankness and perspective.

Akelevar

I began my journey with James Baldwin more than 40 years ago as a college freshman. Friends of mine and I decided that much of what is happening in today's world was relevant even then. We are journeying with him again and thanks to Amazon Prime we didn't have to wait long.

Ynonno

The title essay in Baldwin's important collection has been one of those pieces of writing that has been personally important throughout my personal and professional life. Baldwin combines his first experiences of racism with his memories of his strained relationship to his bitter father. The encounter with racism in a New Jersey restaurant where he is refused service leads Baldwin to a better understanding of his father's pain and his attempts to overcome his own.

The essay is beautifully written, artfully combining and complicating the different themes. I've used it regularly in my teaching, and regard it as one of the best pieces of twentieth-century American prose. While I'm not African American, the writing allows me at least partly to enter Baldwin's

feelings about race. Equally moving for me, and I suspect for many readers, is the description of Baldwin's strained relationship to and eventual compassion for his father, and his attempts to overcome his own frustration and anger. This deeply honest and articulate essay and book is a must for anyone concerned with modern American writing and also seeking a deeper understanding of his or her own inner complexities.

Hi Jacker

His depth of knowledge in these essays is unmatched. I highly recommend this book because it speaks to current issues of race and identity.

I can't believe I made it through high school and college without reading James Baldwin. He is my favorite A, Eric an author and this collection of essays speaks with incredible depth and immediacy.

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