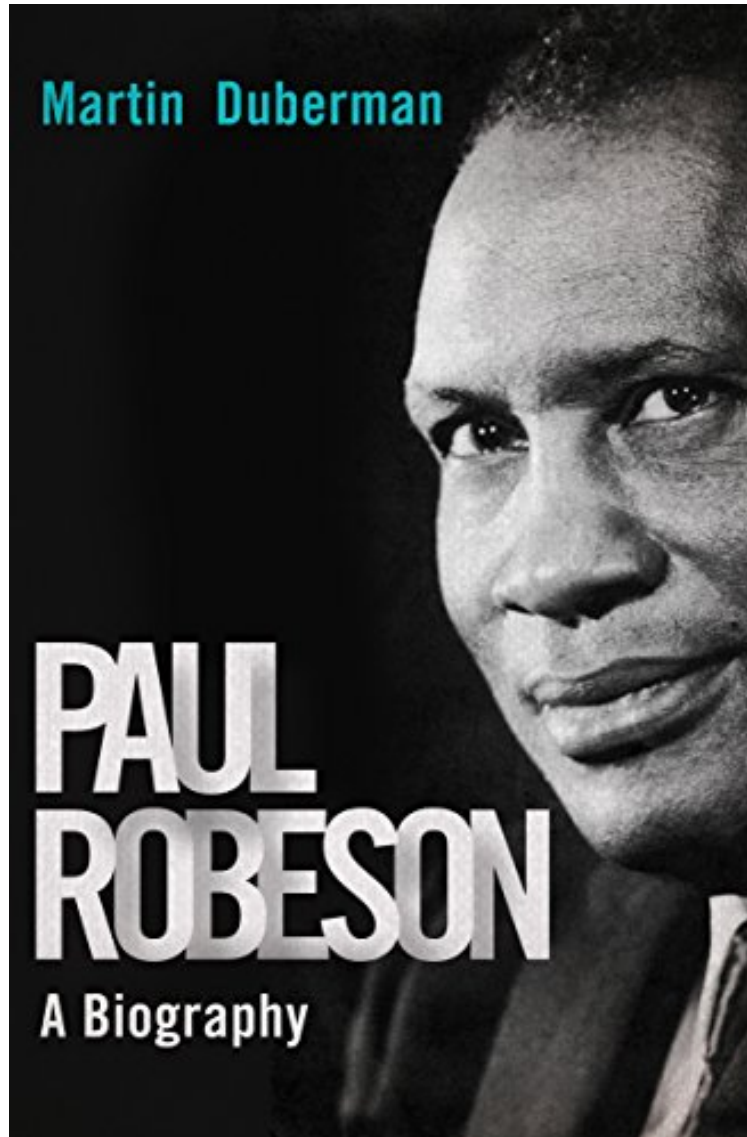


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Paul Robeson: A Biography (English Edition)

Von Martin Duberman

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Von Martin Duberman : Paul Robeson: A Biography (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Paul Robeson: A Biography (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A masterful study of a Nietzschean, larger than life US heroVon Ein KundeI rate Paul Robeson: a Biography a perfect ten because there are no decimals in the rating system allowing for a nine point five, and the point five from perfection would come only from trivial nit pickings that amount to my desire to never have it end. Duberman, through obviously

painstaking research (despite the voluminous material afforded him via Robeson's archives and the Freedom of Information Act's allowing for the research of FBI surveillance files) creates a portrait both panoramic in scope and theme and highly, meticulously detailed. He reaffirms the truism truth is stranger than fiction- and more exhilarating- by bringing us to an intimate knowledge of the many worlds of Paul Robeson- stage and screen actor, concert hall singer, athlete, academician, lawyer, linguist, political/quasi-communist/Civil Rights revolutionary, African-American youngest son of an Episcopal minister- in such a way as to have us be part of the childlike sloughing off of arrogance and ignorance that is the first step in an initiation; an initiation to the higher mysteries of knowledge of the human character and spirit in the context of the modern world; the path Duberman's incredible skill as a writer and biographer clearly shows he has taken. He shows his profound love and respect for the man and his influence of and on American culture by staring unflinchingly at everything from his sexual proclivities and many mistresses to his powerful intellect and international appeal, to his consistent challenging of the prevailing moral schizophrenia of pre-Civil Rights movement America and the subsequent ruination of his career and sanity- all within the context of his familial and cultural ties and his immense talent. Duberman makes one of many things abundantly clear: no nerve on the body politic and the cultural fabric of twentieth century American society was not touched- often wrung, by the tenacity, stubbornness, courage, love and immense talent of the many avatars of Paul Robeson. It is impossible to simplify or romanticize a life so profoundly influential and complex without ultimately obscuring the very heroic character one- whether they liked him or not- would be attempting to portray. Duberman, in refusing to do so succeeds brilliantly. I felt deeply personally cleansed as well as enlightened about a figure whose influence I now understand has been purposely footnoted into history, as well as why he was, and shouldn't be anymore. Duberman gives a Nietzschean "Übermensch" rendering of Paul Robeson that every human being- particularly every kind of American- will find gloriously, uncomfortably, provocatively and simultaneously both tragic and triumphant. I cannot recommend this book enough.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Job Well Done Von Ein Kunde Duberman brings to life the (along with Du Bois) towering African-American life of the twentieth century. Multi-talented, committed, generous, intelligent....one runs out of adjectives to describe Robeson's prodigious skills. This biography should stand for many years as the definitive one. Just as an aside: one of the points Duberman makes in the book is that labelling Robeson a "Communist" is red-baiting of the highest order. The man NEVER actually was a member of the Communist party, although he certainly sympathized with many of its tenets. I find it utterly offensive that morons such as Henry Louis Gates Jr. refer to Robeson as a "Communist" in public or on TV--he wasn't. He was much more.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. This book represents the best all-around black hero of all. Von Ein Kunde This book truly changed my life, forget about Michael Jordan, Jackie Robinson Jesse Owens. All are great but compared to Paul Robeson, I don't think so. Mr. Robeson should be as familiar to the youth of today as the above mentioned sport heroes; however history has shunned him. Unlike the modern day super stars Mr. Robeson believed in making social changes albeit at his own demise. What an unselfish and social conscience individual who influenced social change i.e. "Jim Crow " laws and segregation in general. Mr. Robeson excelled in so many different arenas it is mind boggling by today's standards.

Kurzbeschreibung The remarkable life of Paul Robeson, quintessential Harlem Renaissance man: scholar, all-American, actor, activist, and firebrand Born the son of an ex-slave in New Jersey in 1898, Paul Robeson, endowed with multiple gifts, seemed destined for fame. In his youth, he was as tenacious in the classroom as he was on the football field. After graduating from Rutgers with high honors, he went on to earn a law degree at Columbia. Soon after, he began a stage and film career that made him one of the country's most celebrated figures. But it was not to last. Robeson became increasingly vocal about defending black civil rights and criticizing Western imperialism, and his radical views ran counter to the country's evermore conservative posture. During the McCarthy period, Robeson's passport was lifted, he was denounced as a traitor, and his career was destroyed. Yet he refused to bow. His powerful and tragic story is emblematic of the major themes of twentieth-century history. Martin Duberman's exhaustive biography is the result of years of research and interviews, and paints a portrait worthy of its incredible subject and his improbable story. Duberman uses primary documents to take us deep into Robeson's life, giving Robeson the due that he so richly deserves.