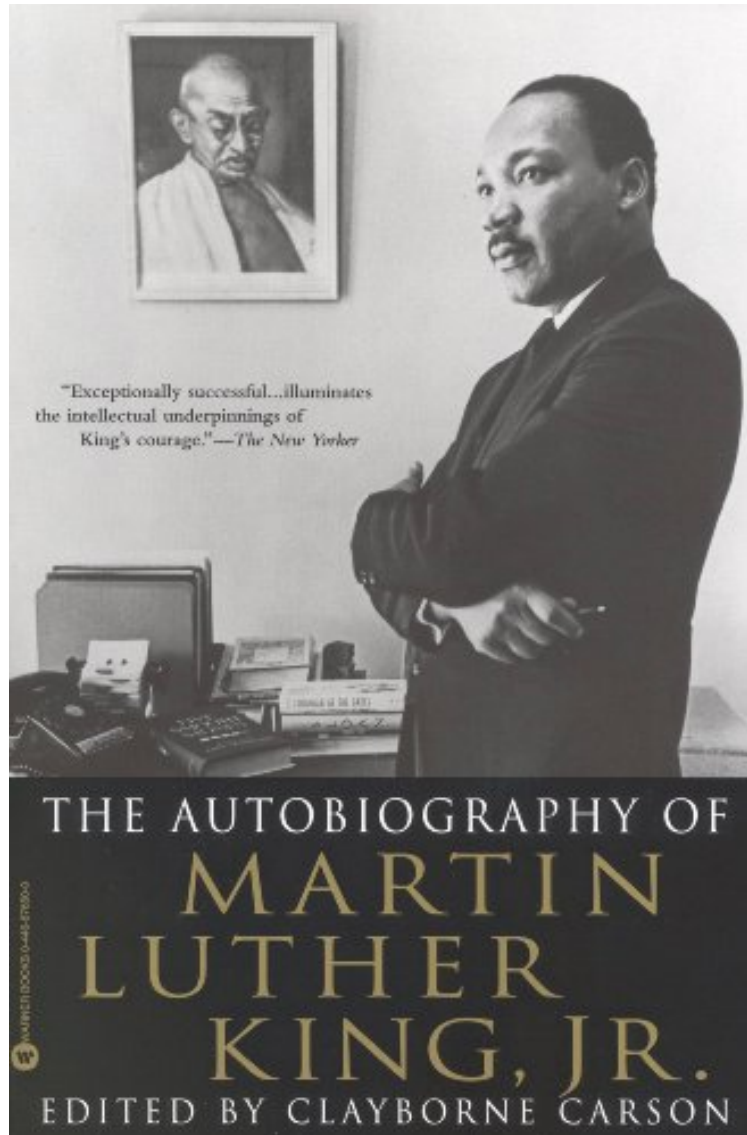


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The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr. (English Edition)

Von Clayborne Carson
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Von Clayborne Carson : The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr. (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr. (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen6 von 6 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Required reading!Von FrKurt MessickMartin Luther King, Jr., is without a doubt one of the most influential and pivotal figures in twentieth-century history. In addition to his work as a Civil Rights leader, his role as a father and

pastor, he also was an extensively published writer. However, he never had the chance to write an autobiography in the traditional sense. We as readers in the present day and the future have lost the private details that might have been fleshed out in a proper autobiography, but this skillfully crafted work by Clayborne Carson has given us a religious and political autobiography, revealed in King's almost countless papers (published and unpublished), interviews, letters, sermons and public statements. Carson, author and editor of many books relating to the Civil Rights struggle, edited a collection of King's speeches entitled 'A Knock at Midnight', and was selected by the King estate to put together this in conjunction with (according to Carson) dozens of staff and student workers forming part of the King Papers Project. Carson used particular methodology consistently in his reconstruction - that of relying primarily on the words of King himself (utilising early drafts of later writings to discern the difference between authorial and editorial intentions) and developing them as if this overall narrative account was constructed near the end of King's life. King's autobiography begins at the beginning, with his childhood as a preacher's kid (who was himself a preacher's kid, who was himself a preacher's kid, etc.). King said, 'of course I was religious.... I didn't have much choice.' King explains the different strands in his life, that of being both militant and moderate, idealistic and realistic, as beginning here. Here he developed questions ('how could I love a race of people who hated me?') and some answers (he learned that racial injustice was paralleled by economic injustice, and realised that poor white people were exploited also). King's call to ministry and call to ethical and prophetic witness in the world developed through his schooling at Morehouse College, Crozer Seminary, and Boston University, where he developed interest in theology and social philosophy that would lead him to eventually to his ideas of civil rights activism. This would not take practical shape, however, until he was back in the South and working at churches and participating in actual events. He describes his involvement with Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Movement as a mountaintop experience, which also led to an awakening, both in King and in the community, of the power of nonviolent action à la Mahatma Gandhi. It is almost incomprehensible to read this autobiography and realise that in a span of barely more than a dozen years (Rosa Parks was arrested for her action in December of 1955; King was assassinated in 1968) so much of what we consider to be the central history of the Civil Rights struggle occurred. Within the pages of text, King talks about the struggles of the common people and the dealings with the powerful, from the police in Alabama jurisdictions to dealing with federal government officials and organisations. In the midst of all of this work, King managed to remain a family man, devoted to his wife and children, and a tireless worker in the church. Carson admits to not being able to develop too much of an interior autobiography in these kinds of sections (as even in King's private papers and writings, too much remains unrecorded), but his life in this regard still comes through many aspects of his writings, sermons and speeches. This is an incredible book, and should be read as a required part of the education of an American, as it recounts a remarkable and astonishing part of history that continues to shape the direction of the nation to this day.

20 von 20 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Eine sehr detaillierte Biografie von Martin Luther King Von AndreasFr meine Matura (mein Abitur) in Englisch habe ich mich auf Martin Luther King spezialisiert. Im Zuge dessen habe ich natürlich auch die Autobiografie gelesen. Erst mal sollte man wissen, dass dies keine wirkliche Autobiografie ist. Martin Luther King hat eine solche nie verfasst, plante dies jedoch und schrieb daher immer Notizen. Clayborne Carson hat all diese Notizen zusammengetragen und diese "Autobiografie" verfasst. Sehr detailliert erzählt der Menschenrechtskämpfer Martin Luther King seine Geschichte und den Kampf für die Freiheit der Schwarzen in Amerika. Während des Lebens bekommt man einen guten Einblick in die Denkweise Kings, seinen Lebensstil und seine Persönlichkeit. Inhaltlich ist dieses Buch also absolut Spitze. Ich lerne nun schon seit 8 Jahren Englisch, lese auch regelmäßig englische Bücher, tat mir beim Lesen aber teilweise recht schwer. Ich interessiere mich für das Leben und die Arbeit Kings, doch sind sich die "Kämpfe" in den verschiedenen amerikanischen Städten doch sehr ähnlich, und so kommt von Zeit zu Zeit ein wenig Langweile auf. Im Großen und Ganzen ist dieses Buch aber absolut empfehlenswert und ein sehr wertvolles Dokument unserer Zeit. Auch verspricht man nach dem Lesen vielleicht Genuss eines der 4 Bücher die Martin Luther King selbst geschrieben hat ('Stride Towards Freedom', 'Strength To Love', 'Why We Can't Wait', 'Where Do We Go From Here?'), zu lesen.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Good book, but more journal than biography Von JayAny book of the writings and reflections of one of the greatest writers and orators of our time can't go too wrong. Reading King's words in the context of what he was living at the time has to leave you inspired and awed. But, this is not biography, and I'm disappointed that Carson, the book's editor and the director of the King Papers Project, promotes it as one. Biography digs deep, revealing and explaining influences that shaped belief, events and people that inspired the courage of the man; it gives the reader a special insight to the doubts of the man and the reservoirs he drew from to overcome them. A journal, on the other hand, only provides insights from the moment, without the advantage of seeing things from the distance of time and in the context of ensuing events. This is worthwhile read, but far from being a biography.

Kurzbeschreibung First-person account of the extraordinary life of America's greatest civil rights leader. It begins with his boyhood as the son of a preacher, his education as a minister, his ascendancy as a leader of civil rights, his

complex relationships with leading political social figures of the day..deCelebrated Stanford University historian Clayborne Carson is the director and editor of the Martin Luther King Papers Project; with thousands of King's essays, notes, letters, speeches, and sermons at his disposal, Carson has organized King's writings into a posthumous autobiography. In an early student essay, King prophetically penned: "We cannot have an enlightened democracy with one great group living in ignorance.... We cannot have a nation orderly and sound with one group so ground down and thwarted that it is almost forced into unsocial attitudes and crime." Such statements, made throughout King's career, are skillfully woven together into a coherent narrative of the quest for social justice. The autobiography delves, for example, into the philosophical training King received at Morehouse College, Crozer Theological Seminary, and Boston University, where he consolidated the teachings of Afro-American theologian Benjamin Mays with the philosophies of Locke, Rousseau, Gandhi, and Thoreau. Through King's voice, the reader intimately shares in his trials and triumphs, including the Montgomery Boycott, the 1963 "I Have a Dream Speech," the Selma March, and the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize. In one of his last speeches, King reminded his audience that "in the final analysis, God does not judge us by the separate incidents or the separate mistakes that we make, but by the total bent of our lives." Carson's skillful editing has created an original argument in King's favor that draws directly from the source, illuminating the circumstances of King's life without deifying his person. --Eugene Holley Jr..com

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