



The Education of Kevin Powell: A Boy's Journey into Manhood

By Kevin Powell

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In the spirit of Piri Thomas's *Down These Mean Streets* and Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, this powerful memoir by writer and activist Kevin Powell vividly recounts the horrific poverty of his youth, his struggles to overcome a legacy of anger, violence, and self-hatred, and his journey to be a man and a voice for others.

Driven by his single mother's dreams for his survival and success, Kevin Powell became the first in his family to attend a university, where he became a student leader keenly aware of widespread social injustice. But the struggle to define himself and break out of poverty continued into adulthood, with traumatic periods of homelessness and despair. As a young star journalist with *Vibe* magazine, Powell interviewed luminaries such as Tupac Shakur, writing influential chronicles of the evolution of hip-hop from his eyewitness view. Now, with searing honesty, Powell examines his troubled relationships, his appearance on MTV's first season of *The Real World*, his battles with alcohol and depression, his two campaigns for Congress, and the uplifting trip to Africa that renewed his sense of personal mission. Finally, Powell embarks on a search for the father he never really knew in a redemptive passage from abandonment to self-discovery.

A striking memoir by a child of post-Civil Rights America, *The Education of Kevin Powell* gives eloquent testimony to the power of the soul to heal.

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Editorial Review

Review

"*The Education of Kevin Powell* is a raw, deeply painful accounting of a life born of poverty, racism, abandonment, abuse, and complicated love. It is a memoir as much about a mother as it is about her son, a memoir born out of stunning writing and surprising vulnerability. A memoir of rage and insight, heartbreak and hunger. Powerful, brave, and unforgettable." (Eve Ensler, author of *The Vagina Monologues*)

"Poignant and transformative. This story of Black male life in our patriarchal culture, from boyhood to manhood, is raw and passionate. It offers a true and honest portrait of all that Black males endure to survive and, more importantly, to cope with trauma, and to heal and thrive. It should be read by everyone who claims to care about the fate of Black males in America."
(BELL HOOKS, author of *The Will to Change*)

"Powell's 'education' is one with lessons for all of us, a riveting story of conflicted manhood, the ups (and definitely the downs) of the class structure, and the ongoing racial drama that has characterized America from the jump. To understand Powell's triumphs, defeats, and refusal to give up, even when all the odds were against him, is to understand America writ large. His personal commitment to justice and equality for all, made clear here as the outgrowth of a life often marked by injustice and hardship, is one we should all hope to mimic." (TIM WISE, author of *White Like Me*)

"This dynamic memoir takes us through a personal journey of pain, growth, triumph, defeat, and finally reclamations of his gifts and importance in U.S. letters. Using his journalist's keen eye, he also recalls key events and people over the past forty years in American culture, music, and politics: the birth of hip-hop, poetry slams, the life and death of Tupac Shakur, Los Angeles' rebellion after the acquittal of police in Rodney King's beating, the rise of Barack Obama, and more. The intersections make his story your story, his voice that of a generation." (LUIS J. RODRIGUEZ, Los Angeles Poet Laureate, author of *Always Running*)

"As a charismatic speaker, leader, and a very good writer, Kevin Powell has the courage...to be fully human, and this will bring the deepest revolution of all." (GLORIA STEINEM, Author of *Revolution from Within*)

About the Author

Kevin Powell, a native of Jersey City, New Jersey, is the author or editor of eleven previous books. He is a native of Jersey City, New Jersey. Thanks to a college financial aid package, he studied at Rutgers University and has gone on to write for publications such as *The Huffington Post*, CNN.com, *Esquire*, *Rolling Stone*, the *Washington Post*, *Vibe*, and the *Guardian*. He is also the president and cofounder of BK Nation, an American organization focused on civil rights, human rights, and equal opportunities for all people. Powell is a proud long-time resident of Brooklyn, New York. Visit www.KeinPowell.net and www.BKNation.org.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Smith:

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always try and must have the extra time or they will get lot of stress from both way of life and work. So , when we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not only a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to you of course your answer will unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, often the book you have read is definitely The Education of Kevin Powell: A Boy's Journey into Manhood.

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Ann Mickey:

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