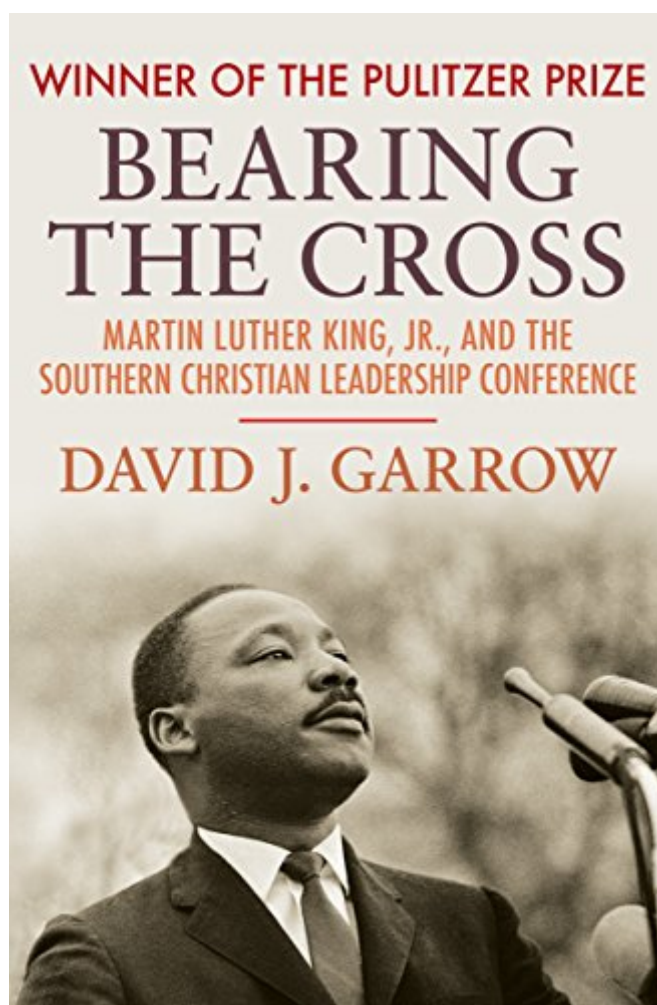


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Bearing The Cross: Martin Luther King, Jr., And The Southern Christian Leadership Conference



Synopsis

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize: The definitive biography of Martin Luther King Jr. In this monumental account of the life of Martin Luther King Jr., professor and historian David Garrow traces King's evolution from young pastor who spearheaded the 1955-56 bus boycott of Montgomery, Alabama, to inspirational leader of America's civil rights movement. Based on extensive research and more than seven hundred interviews, with subjects including Andrew Young, Jesse Jackson, and Coretta Scott King, Garrow paints a multidimensional portrait of a charismatic figure driven by his strong moral obligation to lead—and of the toll this calling took on his life. Bearing the Cross provides a penetrating account of King's spiritual development and his crucial role at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, whose protest campaigns in Birmingham and Selma, Alabama, led to enactment of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965. This comprehensive yet intimate study reveals the deep sense of mission King felt to serve as an unrelenting crusader against prejudice, inequality, and violence, and his willingness to sacrifice his own life on behalf of his beliefs. Written more than twenty-five years ago, Bearing the Cross remains an unparalleled examination of the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and the legacy of the civil rights movement.

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Customer Reviews

I am writing a "pre-review" of a book I am only still reading, but I want to make a bold, clear statement that this is a great book about a man who was only a man, but who used his talents at gifts at such a high level that he accomplished astonishing things in a (public) life that comprised only 13 years. He moved a nation, several times, and had he not been assassinated, he may have accomplished even more than we can imagine. I'll revise this when I'm done. It's very, very good. A few things I would note - I think the author missed a chance to explain how his dad, Michael Luther King, Sr., came to have a son who became well-known as Martin Luther King, Jr., and whose nickname as a child and young man was "Mike."

Martin Luther King, Jr. is one of the most fascinating human beings to have ever walked the face of the Earth. For 12 years of his life, he stood in the spotlight of public attention as a leader of The Civil Rights Movement. King, at first, was a reluctant leader, but at some point, he saw that the Movement was bigger than himself, that the whole Movement was destined to change society. King saw his role in the Movement as not unlike his Call to preach. King felt that God demanded his participation in the Movement, and being the person that he was, King fundamentally understood that his DNA could not say no to God. Thus, he answered the call to be active in the Movement affirmatively. Though he was a reluctant participant, King saw his role as the Cross that he must bear, and this concept goes a long ways towards explaining how Garrow came up with his title. This book is almost a day-to-day account of King's life from the time he became famous during the Montgomery Bus Boycott until his death. The book is also an example of majesterial scholarship, with Garrow having well over 130 pages of notes, a sign that he was thorough in doing his homework. There are many who will make the argument that this book is boring, that it is just a string of day-to-day events just strung together. Anyone who says this is not taking the time to get at what is being stated within the book, for it is the kind of book that cannot be read in bulk, meaning that if a person tries reading this book 30 pages at-a-sitting, he will miss out on what it has to offer. I read the book patiently, concentrating on just 2 pages at a time. Sure it took me quite a while to read it, but the rewards I gained from reading it in this manner are beyond explanation. I make the case that this book is the finest, most comprehensive, subtle and nuanced biography that has ever

been written about M.L.K. In sum, I am saying that one cannot find a finer account of King's life than this one. Garrow is equal to his subject and has done a masterful job in putting this book together. This is an excellent biography. King's life has many sides, with many interesting details. A close personal friend of King named Professor Vincent Harding taught a college class on King, with a really interesting twist. The story of what happened is detailed in the book "Reality's Pen: Reflections On Family, History & Culture" by Thomas D. Rush on pages 48 and 194 in a piece called "The Picture On The Wall." The book can be found right here on . At the current time, David J. Garrow is researching an approved biography of President Barack Obama, which is said to have an expected release date sometime in 2016. Professor Garrow called author Thomas D. Rush in March of 2014 to interview him regarding two private conversations Rush held with the President in January of 1989 while working as a Community Organizer. Professor Garrow told Rush during that conversation that Rush's book is well-written. Rush's account of his meetings with President Obama appears on page 95 of Rush's book in a story called, "You Never Know Who God Wants You To Meet."

Very interesting and well-written. I do find it difficult to keep up with the many individual names & could use some type of quick revenue page.

This book won a Pulitzer which says a ton. MLK Jr is a real human in this book. In it we learn about his growing commitment to nonviolence, his development as a leader, his weaknesses and the price he personally paid. This book is also great resource for learning the key people, places and events of the Civil Rights Movement.

Enjoyed the reading history of MLK, the SCLC, problems between the SCLC and NCAAP, and most important the detailed account of MLK. Every family should read what MLK did for EVERYONE. Truly, he had a vision for society.

Superb book and an incredible human being, MLK.

I bought this for a History graduate class I'm taking. It was well written and enjoyable, but sometimes I felt half the page was covered by acronyms. It also got into details that were superfluous. I would buy it for pleasure reading. It was that good all-around.

Great history. Though I lived as it was happening Learning the details, especially the dissension within the movement, I came to appreciate how much Martin Luther King suffered and accomplished in his short and tragic life.

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