



Death Blossoms: Reflections from a Prisoner of Conscience

Mumia Abu-Jamal , Cornel West (Foreword by) , Julia Wright (Preface by)

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In *Death Blossoms: Reflections from a Prisoner of Conscience* Mumia Abu-Jamal, America's best known political prisoner, offers poetic observations and reflections on life on this planet and on death row. In this collection of short essays and personal vignettes, which take on everything from spirituality and religion to capitalism and the prison-industrial complex, Mumia examines the deeper dimensions of existence.

Mumia's ability to celebrate life and advocate for revolutionary change while being held, at the state's convenience, at death's door, imbues his thoughts and words with power and passion. "Many people say it is insane to resist the system, but actually, it is insane not to," he writes in "Politics." In "God-Talk on Phase II" he writes, "On death's brink, men begin to see things they've perhaps never seen before. Like those around them, and especially those who share their fate...men whose death warrants have been signed, men with a date to die—live each day with a clarity and a vibrancy they might have lacked in less pressured times."

Mumia turns this clarity towards his quest for spiritual and social fulfillment drawing connections between religion and race politics. He embraces spirituality while exploring the true nature of the institutions that have sentenced him to die.

"Crucial reading for all opponents of the death penalty—and for those who support it, too."—Katha Pollitt, *The Nation*

"A brilliant, lucid meditation on the moral obligation of political commitment by a deeply ethical—and deeply wronged—human being. Mumia should be freed, now."—Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

"If Mumia Abu-Jamal has nothing important to say, why are so many powerful people trying to kill him and shut him up? Read him."—John Edgar Wideman

Mumia Abu-Jamal, an award-winning journalist and former Black Panther Party member, has been living on death row in a Pennsylvania prison since 1982.

Death Blossoms: Reflections from a Prisoner of Conscience Details

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From Reader Review Death Blossoms: Reflections from a Prisoner of Conscience for online ebook

Seanmallory says

You'll learn an awful lot awfully quickly by reading this book. Perhaps the thing I liked most about it were the dozens of quotes I walked away with. The wrongfully incarcerated Abu-Jamal is a mix between a modern day Thomas Paine and a better-spoken Che Guevara. I enjoyed every short chapter.

Beth says

Mumia has done it again. I appreciate his liberation theology, written in not so many words. Must read for any social activist.

Colleen Wainwright says

I still cannot imagine what it must take to stay free under such brutal conditions, but this straightforward and loving memoir brought me a little closer to understanding.

Jonathan says

good stuff. but i wanna read other work of his. this one left something to be desired.

Robin says

Commendable! I was researching the MOVE movement when I'd discovered Mumia Abu-Jamal as a suggested author.

I meant to read the first 40 pages before bed, but I ended up staying up to finish this book over the course of a few hours. I didn't want to put it down.

Suffice to say, this book leaves you hungry for more of his writing.

Ron says

Like all of Mumia's books, this is essential reading.

Religion, politics, the hell that is death row, the US justice system, and many other subjects.

Mumia's words gives light, lots of light.

We need to listen.

Brendan says

Only slightly better than Tupac's posthumous poem collection, The Rose that Grew from Concrete.

HeavyReader says

Prison writings from Mumia Abu-Jamal. This is a good book to read for anyone interested in the prison industrial complex, death row, or humanity in general.

Idiris says

this was very exciting book. i would recommend it to my class

Phillip Boyd says

GOOD READ.

Jonny Szczesniak says

i read this when i lived 2 blocks from geno's.

Cyclopean Dissident says

not what i expected, but good.

Owen says

Had not read much by Mumia before except a couple essays and heard him on radio. I now want to read

"Live from Death Row"!

He is a writer of flowing poetic prose who mixes crisp clarity with dollops of spirituality, while waxing revolutionary on an assortment of topics. This book is broken into multiple small essays, thoughts, an interview, and a poem or two, with topics touching on MOVE and the spiritual beliefs of John Africa (sacredness of Life, etc.), comparative religions, the horrors of the prison industrial complex, his history of journalism and being in the Black Panthers, along with musings on philosophy.

He said some profound things, including a good short essay on the essence of community (a good explanation in a nutshell of the Hillell proverb "If I am only for my self...") as well as a great talk to young people on the level of freedom and opportunity they have at this early stage in their lives, essentially free from the responsibilities of later life and career, etc, so the importance to develop themselves and study and think and enjoy the creativity of their freedom, etc. which I read to my 20 year old.

Very short and quick and enjoyable read.

Colin says

I think this was a 3.5 star. Parts of this were brilliant, but I thought he had a fucked up analysis or lack thereof about Native issues (he plays up the "vanished Indian" rhetoric). And he asks if trans people are "sexual materialist[s:] who [have:] merely purchased a new sexual persona" (32) in an anti-materialistic culture rant. Um, woah there. However there were some really good poems and philosophical and spiritual writings as well. So 3.5 stars.

Tara Betts says

This book is powerful, concise and graphically arresting. Mumia is truly adept at breaking down the political hypocrisies and the possibilities in ways that regular folks (not necessarily academes) can understand.
