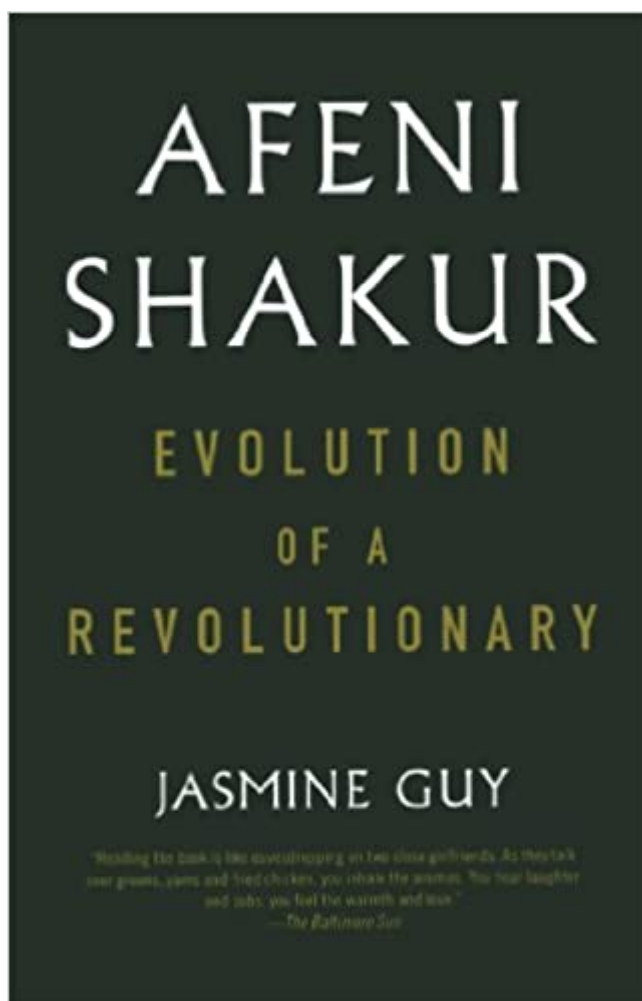


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Afeni Shakur : Evolution Of A Revolutionary



Synopsis

Before becoming one of the most well-known members of the Black Power movement, Alice Faye Williams was not unlike any other poor, African American girl growing up in the impoverished South. But when her family moved to New York during the radical sixties, she became intoxicated by the promise of social change. By the time she turned twenty-one, Alice had a new name -- Afeni Shakur, derived from the Yoruba term for "lover of people" -- and a new vision for the future. The rest is history. In 1969, Afeni was arrested along with other members of the Black Panther party on 189 felony charges that included 30 counts of conspiracy. Though she was eventually acquitted of the charges, Afeni spent eleven months in jail before being released. Once on bail, she became pregnant with a son: Tupac Amaru Shakur, a rap megastar until his tragic death in 1996. In this searing work, renowned actress and Afeni's trusted friend Jasmine Guy reveals the evolution of a woman through a series of intimate conversations on themes such as love, death, race, drugs, politics, music, and of course her son. Filled with startling revelations and heartbreaking truths, Afeni's memoir is a powerful testament to the human spirit and the perseverance of the African American people.

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Atria Books (February 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0743470540

ISBN-13: 978-0743470544

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.7 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 63 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #117,191 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Music > Biographies > Rap & Hip-Hop #55 in Books > Arts & Photography >

Music > Musical Genres > Rap #360 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National >

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Customer Reviews

Afeni Shakur (nee Alice Faye), the mother of deceased hip-hop star Tupac Shakur, emerges as a significant cultural emblem in her own right in this absorbing oral history. Daughter of a violent broken home, Shakur's rage at her inner demons and at white racism impelled her into a leadership

position with the Black Panthers, where she navigated the treacherous currents of revolutionary and sexual politics in the Black Power movement. After government and internal dissension brought down the Panthers ("the party was ripping itself apart," she says), she followed a downward spiral of bad relationships, crack addiction and familial breakup, ending with 12-step redemption and a final come-back at the helm of Tupac's posthumous entertainment empire. The book is somewhat marred by the obtrusive presence of interlocutor and amanuensis Guy, an actress and friend-of-Tupac who optioned the rights to Afreni's story and too often mentions its possibilities as an uplifting biopic. At times, she is clumsy about eliciting a coherent narrative from Shakur, dilutes Shakur's often lacerating self-reproaches with Oprah-esque talk of self-esteem issues, and clutters the story with too much banter and bonding between her and her subject. Still, Shakur's distinctive voice comes through loud and clear, by turns truculent, ruminative and elegiac, and painfully aware of her many failures to live up to her own flinty moralism. The result is a complex portrait of a woman in whom the political and the personal collided with unusual force. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Long before Shakur was famous for being the mother of slain rapper Tupac Shakur, she was a high-ranking member of the Black Panther Party and one of the "New York 21" charged by the state with subversive activities. Guy, actress and longtime friend of Tupac and his family, offers a penetrating look at the life of a woman who has struggled with anger and pride, drug addiction, radical politics, and the personal demons of having failed her children in their youth. In interviews over a seven-year period, Guy slowly unpeels the layers that have covered the inner life of Shakur: growing up with a poor self-image, combative spirit, and personal vulnerability that was attracted to the radical politics of the Black Panthers, and a young womanhood filled with drug addiction, domestic violence, imprisonment, and failed relationships. Shakur is brutally honest about her personal shortcomings, the internal politics of the Black Panthers that contributed to their unraveling, her long recovery, and the renewed strength and conviction she brings to managing the entertainment legacy left by her son. Vanessa Bush Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Oh my GOODNESS!! I have to say that this was one of the best books that I have ever read. From the first page until the end. Jasmine Guy - first of all - her realness was exactly what I have looked for in every book. She made me love her. From the dedication, to her thoughts on forewords (I'm

with you Jasmine, I hate them too) until the very end. I could not put it down. Afeni Shakur was a remarkable woman. She was raw and unfiltered and I love it. Her strength in character was insurmountable. I never knew that Afeni and Jasmine were friends. I actually did not know much about Afeni either so, I completely appreciated listening in on the conversations that they had. All love. It was like listening in on your mother and aunt's conversations as a kid (knowing you shouldn't) and just enjoying the interactions, and later as an adult, relishing in the memories. I was sad when the end of the book came but, happy at the same time. Highly recommended.

We are members of a womens empowerment group, who chose this book two weeks before the death of Afeni Shakur; which gave the reading more purpose. During our discussion we noticed our generational differences with some sharing personal experiences with those not of Afeni's time was of extreme value. We continued talking on her strengths and weaknesses onward for hours to our own struggles today. I personally found an interest in Tupac's poetry and lyrics; as I'd never listened to his music before. I'm now a fan!

I absolutely adored this book. I got it within two days of shipping & read the whole thing within 4 days. You really can catch a feel of Afeni Shakur one of the most strong willed revolutionariest woman of our time. She is also known for being the mother of Tupac Amaru Shakur, someone who changed this world with his words of wisdom & intelligence. This book about Afeni gives you a great insight on her life & injustices Black Americans faced during the past. Afeni was a strong beautiful woman & this book is lifechanging. It also really gives you a great insight on why Tupac was the great person he was! Good read, recommend to everyone! Rest in Peace Afeni & Tupac!

Jasmine does an excellent job of making the reader feel like they are sitting in her almost empty brownstone with them, listening in on the conversation. Afeni does not hold back. She talks about some hard subjects, but she has learned a lesson from each one & is sharing her lessons, wisdom, perspectives w/the reader. The book covers parts of her life before the Panthers, during, and her addiction to recovery afterwards. I'm glad Afeni was able to get clean & love herself and her life, even through tragedy.

Though I am a HUGH Tupac fan, Jasmine Guy did a beautiful job of sharing Afeni's story without much mention of her son. This was HER story and it made me love her even more for her love of not only her children and family but for black people as well. Her strength and her will for survival is

very Inspiring. She did not hold back or sugar coat her truths, which is rare when Autobiographies of others tend to hide or downplay the ugly stuff. Her life was rough and at times especially her sons life mirrored hers as if he picked up where she left off. Great read and Insite into a women whose revolutionary status was well earned but at a price.

A very compelling book. I love it. I was skeptical to buy but I am ecstatic that I did. One fact the author should have covered more. The book should have been longer.

This book is so powerful that I had to write this. Mrs. Guy did a great job. I love this book, I just wish it had about 500 more pages . When I started reading this book I was going to fast. I put the book down to savor each page like chocolate cake but when I started again I could not stop. The way the book ended it was like the crescendo of a beautiful song. It was like another post I saw that said it is like eavesdropping on two friends. A must read

This book, this journey is truth. It is inspiring and yet fulfilling to one's soul. I only hope that I live my life in truth just as the Shakur's have. Jasmine did beautiful job painting the full picture of Afeni as what was allowed. It made me laugh and cry. Most of all it made me stronger than before I read the book. For that I say mission accomplished and job well done.

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