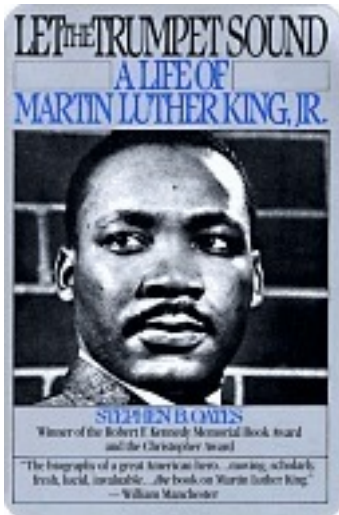

Stephen B. Oates

Let the Trumpet Sound: A Life of Martin Luther King Jr.



Title: Let the Trumpet Sound: A Life of Martin Luther King Jr.

Author: Stephen B. Oates

Format: Kindle Edition

Language: English

Pages: 592

Publisher: , 0

ISBN:

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 7.1 MB

Download: allowed

Description

Winner of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Book Award and the Christopher Award, this brilliant examination of the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. portrays a very real man and his dream that shaped America's history.

Insightful reviews

Carmen: I read this book for a college class. I sold almost all of my textbooks back at the end of each semester, but I kept this one around. I don't remember much about it, but I must have really liked it at the time to keep it. I'll have to revisit at some point.

Bryan Cottle: My favorite book from my undergraduate experience!

Enik?: This was very interesting, although I found it to be a slow read. (Perhaps because I was reading it in French.)

The book offers a lot of information and of course some photographs. I was very interested by MLK's journey and how his theory of non-violence evolved while he was in university. The book offers descriptions of not only the events MLK was involved in, but also on his train of thought and how he came to each decision, to where to go next. The descriptions of the things that occurred were just detailed enough, but not so graphic that I couldn't read on, although of course no one can read this without strong reactions to what is being described, especially when young children participating in a peaceful march are set upon with firefighter hoses spouting incredibly strong water pressure that sends them crashing into walls and rolling in the streets, and police dogs that attack viciously.

Two things I found difficult to follow and which slowed me down quite a bit were the names of all the people MLK met and the acronyms for all the different organizations that worked for the human rights movement. But some do stand out. Ralph Abernathy, for example, as well as Jesse Jackson and Harry Belafonte. Martin Luther King Senior was very clearly portrayed. The things he said when his son won the Nobel Prize for Peace and when he was killed were very moving. I also like how the author always referred to him as Daddy King.

MLK's assassination came as a shock even to me in the book because I had always thought that he was shot while giving a speech, and so I was very surprised when he was shot while standing on the balcony outside his hotel room. The description of his funeral was very moving, and I like the symbolism of having his coffin on a wagon pulled by two donkeys, since MLK was striving to better the conditions of the poor (not just poor blacks, but the poor of every color who were being ignored).

Having now finished the book, I am left with questions, such as, did the March of the Poor on Washington ever take place? MLK was preparing for it when he was shot. Did Ralph Abernathy take over as leader and make it happen? (I was familiar with Mr. Abernathy's name before reading the book and I have no doubt that he stayed active in the human rights movement. I am

just curious about this one particular march.) I will have to see if I can find out.

All in all, this is a very interesting book and I think everyone ought to read it. This is history we should know about.

Thorunn: Mjög fróðleg, bæði um líf hans og sérstaklega um baráttu blökkumanna í Bandaríkjunum. Ótrúlegt hvað er stutt síðan svartir menn höfðu ekki einu sinni kosningarétt í sumum fylkjum Bandaríkjanna, hvað þá einhver önnur mannréttindi. En bókin var complete löng og of ítarleg á köflum. Maður var orðinn alveg ruglaður í hvaða herferð hann var staddur á stundum.

Tj Turner: A good written and thorough biography of a very attention-grabbing and encouraging man. This paintings is balanced and does not pull any punches yet offers King in what seems a truly reasonable light.

Michele : My collage proessor wrote this book. What a superb professor and an excellent publication

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