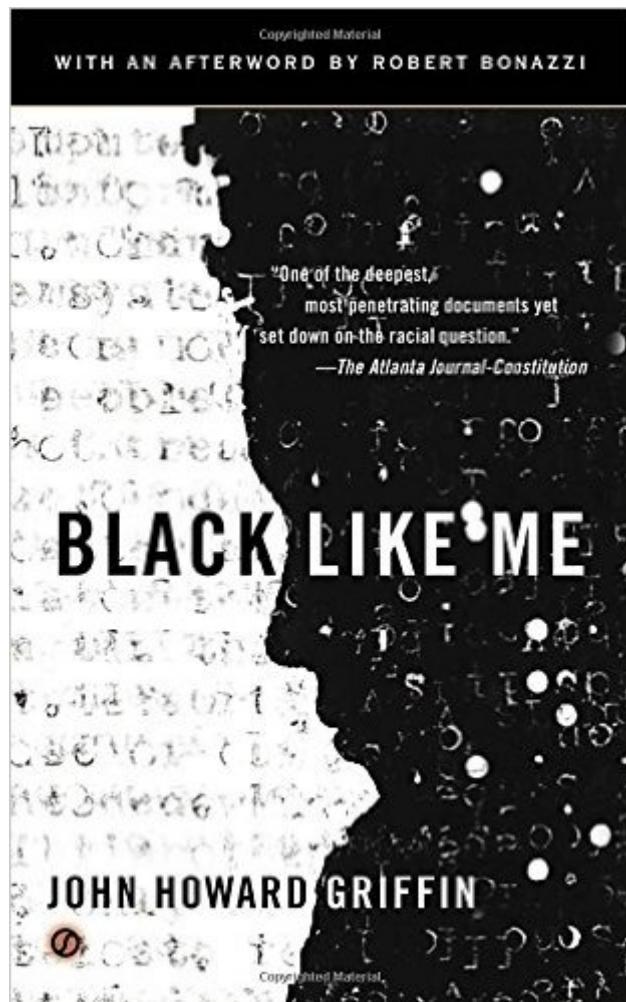


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# Black Like Me



## Synopsis

THE HISTORY-MAKING CLASSIC ABOUT CROSSING THE COLOR LINE IN AMERICA'S SEGREGATED SOUTHâ œOne of the deepest, most penetrating documents yet set down on the racial question.â •â "Atlanta Journal & Constitution Â In the Deep South of the 1950â ™s, a color line was etched in blood across Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Journalist John Howard Griffin decided to cross that line. Using medication that darkened his skin to deep brown, he exchanged his privileged life as a Southern white man for the disenfranchised world of an unemployed black man. Â What happened to John Howard Griffinâ "from the outside and within himselfâ "as he made his way through the segregated Deep South is recorded in this searing work of nonfiction. His audacious, still chillingly relevant eyewitness history is a work about race and humanity every American must read. Â With an Epilogue by the author and an Afterword by Robert Bonazzi

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Griffin's (The Devil Rides Outside) mid-century classic on race brilliantly withstands both the test of time and translation to audio format. Concerned by the lack of communication between the races and wondering what "adjustments and discriminations" he would face as a Negro in the Deep South, the late author, a journalist and self-described "specialist in race issues," left behind his privileged life as a Southern white man to step into the body of a stranger. In 1959, Griffin headed to New Orleans, darkened his skin and immersed himself in black society, then traveled to several

states until he could no longer stand the racism, segregation and degrading living conditions. Griffin imparts the hopelessness and despair he felt while executing his social experiment, and professional narrator Childs renders this recounting even more immediate and emotional with his heartfelt delivery and skillful use of accents. The CD package includes an epilogue on social progress, written in 1976 by the author, making it suitable for both the classroom and for personal enlightenment. 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.

Grade 10 Up-John Howard Griffin's groundbreaking and controversial novel about his experiences as a white man who transforms himself with the aid of medication and dye in order to experience firsthand the life of a black man living in the Deep South in the late 1950s is a mesmerizing tale of the ultimate sociological experiment. Ray Childs' narration is both straightforward and deeply satisfying. A skilled reader, he incorporates different dialects to help listeners distinguish among the various characters. His ability to convey a full spectrum of emotions, including exhilaration, bone deep sadness, and gut wrenching fear is riveting. Equally fascinating is Childs' description of how Griffin's unheard of approach to studying racial discrimination changed his personal life and ignited a storm of argument and discussion around the nation. This recording deserves a place in every public library collection.Cindy Lombardo, Tuscarawas County Public Library, New Philadelphia, OHCopyright © 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.

This is a work of non fiction. A white male in the Deep South in the late 1950s passes himself off as an African American. He keeps a journal and then writes a book of his experiences. There were times it was infuriating. There were times it was terrifying. I could not, and did not, read it in one sitting, yet at the same time, there were times, I could not put it down.I feel that many of the issues being confronted in 1959 are still relevant today. Mr. Griffin was concerned that a divide was occurring among the people. One item that seemed to affect Mr. Griffin quite a bit was having easy access to bathrooms. That made me reflect upon the recent executive order issued by the President about the use of bathrooms at schools. The issue is not identical but can be viewed, if one chooses, from this historical perspective.I read this book on Kindle and listened to an audiobook narration at the same time. The narration was by Ray Childs. His work was excellent. I spent very little for the extra audiobook and it was well worth it to me. However, I would not purchase ONLY the audiobook. The reason I state that is there is important information on the Kindle, at the end, that I also felt was

important that is not included on the audiobook. I noticed at times there were conversations that appear in quotation marks, as though the author had either recorded the conversations word for word, or had memorized them word for word. Of this I am skeptical. However the conversations purported to convey the true inner feelings of African Americans, and as such I feel they are important, of course. However, it would also be a convenient device for the author to extol his own philosophical positions. There were other times that I felt the same device was being used to convey the unspoken thoughts of white people. A white person would be quoted as saying something, frankly evil but preposterous, that the author would seemingly have no way of recording word for word. This did not really diminish the value of this book to me; it provided much fuel for thought. But I did feel there was a disingenuous aspect to this work that bothered me somewhat. Maybe I am wrong. I cannot prove that. But those were my feelings. I consider this a very great read and I am very glad and grateful that I was able to read it. Thank You..

I am an Indian-American and reading this book has had a profound impact on my life. This is definitely one of the best books that I have ever read. Even though I am not an African-American and was not alive during the Jim Crow era in the Deep South I could still relate to the discrimination as was depicted in the book since I too have experienced discrimination based on my physical appearance living in the U.S. (and not just in the American South). In addition to educating readers about what life was like for African-Americans in the Jim Crow era Deep South this book will be educational for anyone who wants to know how racism (as well as other forms of bigotry) manifest itself in any society. John Howard Griffin provides keen, analytical insight on the thought process and ideology of racist White-Americans in the Jim Crow South. This is a great book for anyone who wants to learn more about the history and sociology of the U.S. I highly recommend it.

Interesting perspective of what it was like to live in the segregated South..but once again, here's a story featuring a white person who steps in as a "savior" to the black race. I had to read this for a class--a book from a black person's perspective about life during this time period would've been much more appreciated and most likely more authentic.

I first read John Griffin's book while in high school several decades ago. I decided to re-read "Black Like Me" to see how Griffin's observations, thoughts and comments relate to today's America and inter-racial relations. I was not disappointed. Griffin's observations, while absent the legal protections afforded segregationists by Jim Crow laws in the south, rings true today for both the

North and South. In fact, in many ways the South has exceeded the North and its de facto segregated schools and neighborhoods. The book provides insights as much for African-Americans as it does for white Americans. In that sense it is timeless. I strongly recommend this book for everyone, Black and White, and would urge educators to make the book mandatory reading in high school, as it was for me decades ago.

a wonderful story-true. I read it years ago and reread it to remember. What it was like to be a black man and how he is treated is something I thought about but this really lets you know of his experiences. I think it should be required reading in highschool.

It doesn't get any harder core than this. To act on one's convictions in the manner of Mr Griffin, describe it so dispassionately, and do so in the 50's - yes I was alive then (barely) - is art of the highest sort. The truth in his message remains no less valid today and is testimony to the need to embrace what unites us rather than be distracted by what divides us. The biographical background reveals a unique life not bound by convention.

The book is fantastic. As Griffin faced his prejudice, even as he considered himself to not be a racist, so have I through reading this book. This book gives you a window into an experience that the majority of people will never have. Even today (especially today...), the notes that ring forth from this book are necessary. This book puts many things in perspective, not only of the black experience, but of the dangers and suffering required to make it to this point. I pray more people read it and continue the journey. Before reading this, I was more or less convinced that the journey was either over or nearly over. I was wrong. Read this book. It may change your life for the better.

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