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## X: A Novel



## Synopsis

Winner of the 2016 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work for Youth/TeensA 2016 Coretta Scott King Author Honor BookCowritten by Malcolm Xâ€™s daughter, this riveting and revealing novel follows the formative years of the man whose words and actions shook the world.Malcolm Littleâ€™s parents have always told him that he can achieve anything, but from what he can tell, thatâ€™s a pack of liesâ€¢after all, his fatherâ€™s been murdered, his motherâ€™s been taken away, and his dreams of becoming a lawyer have gotten him laughed out of school. Thereâ€™s no point in trying, he figures, and lured by the nightlife of Boston and New York, he escapes into a world of fancy suits, jazz, girls, and reefer. But Malcolmâ€™s efforts to leave the past behind lead him into increasingly dangerous territory. Deep down, he knows that the freedom heâ€™s found is only an illusionâ€¢and that he canâ€™t run forever. X follows Malcolm from his childhood to his imprisonment for theft at age twenty, when he found the faith that would lead him to forge a new path and command a voice that still resonates today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Upâ€¢Shabazz, the third daughter of Malcolm X, has novelized her famous father's coming-of-age years. Born Malcolm Little in 1925, Malcolm grew up in Detroit, MI, where his father was shot when he was six and his mother was institutionalized when he was 13. Malcolm spent his remaining school years in Michigan foster homes, becoming class president and earning straight As. Eventually Malcolm moved to Boston to live with his half-sister, Ella, where he chose the

fast-paced Roxbury night life over his sister and her Society Hill friends. He fell into drinking, drugging, hustling, and landed in prison. Actor Dion Graham reads with a huge amount of emotion and creates a believable Malcolm. VERDICT Strong language and sexual references make this book more appropriate for high school than junior high. Students may want to read *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* or Shabazz's *Growing Up X* (Random, 2002) for the rest of the story.  Mary Lee Bulat, Harwinton Public Library, CT --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A completely absorbing novel... Readers for whom pre-civil rights America is ancient history will find this poetic interpretation eye-opening and riveting.  Kirkus Reviews (starred review) This fictionalized account of the boy who became Malcolm X maintains a suspenseful, poetic grip as it shifts among moments in his life between the years 1930 and 1948. ... A compelling coming-of-age story.  Publishers Weekly (starred review) An eye-opening look at an important historical figure. The author's honesty about his early troubles serves to convey that it is possible to rise through adversity to make a positive difference in this world. A worthwhile addition to any collection.  School Library Journal (starred review) Although this is a work of fiction, it's strongly tethered to the facts, to the people and events that contributed to Malcolm's world view and his path to becoming a leader. Malcolm's voice is often funny, always perceptive, and as appreciative of beauty as he is critical of the disparity between the rights of whites and blacks.  Shelf Awareness (starred review) Shabazz and Magoon bring energy, immediacy, and emotional power to Malcolm's first-person, present-tense voice. Often painfully candid, the authors effectively depict Malcolm's lifetime of racial slurs and casual injustices, symbolized by the image of a lynched man hanging from a tree. It's a satisfyingly complete, never simplistic story of one young man's journey through trouble to the promise of a life of purpose and meaning.  Booklist (starred review) Riveting. ... Vivid. ... Malcolm's voice is often funny, always perceptive, and as appreciative of beauty as he is critical of the disparity between the rights of whites and blacks.  Shelf Awareness Malcolm inspired me with his eloquence, his wisdom, and his thirst for truth and righteousness. This powerful, page-turning story tells us how he discovered these qualities within himself.  Muhammad Ali Shabazz and Magoon do a remarkable job generating atmosphere, balancing family love in the face of dire circumstances against the pulsating energy of a self-assured young man swaggering through Harlem streets in a fine zoot suit and a conk.... The story of a reckless young man finding himself, *X: A Novel* is historical fiction at its best --- an artistic exploration of a part of a renowned person's life ,

one that stays true to his time and place. •Huffington Post Powerful and charming •makes you see things in a whole new way. One of the best books I've read in quite some time. •Chris Rock Exclusive cover reveal •We Need Diverse Books

I enjoyed this book. I mean...it's not Malcolm X's extraordinary autobiography...but it was a good read. I think I liked it better than I thought I would. The story begins with Malcolm being 14 years old around the time when he and his siblings were separated from his mother. Malcolm learns the truths about his mother, a proud black woman who could pass for white, often doing so in order to secure employment, and then losing jobs when her employers would discover she's black. The story also explores Malcolm's loss of interest in education when told as a negro he should not strive for nor attain success. They also explore how the violent murder of Malcolm's father coupled with the heartless oppression sustained by Malcolm's mother shaped teen Malcolm's world view. Malcolm's time in Boston and Harlem come alive, as young Malcolm gets a "slave", and the degrading groveling it must have taken him in order to keep his "slave". This book would make a great pairing for studies on the epic figure, that could definitely make this legendary man accessible to today's youth. I did listen to the audiobook, performed by Dion Graham. It was a solid listen, but not extraordinary. The ending was read by the author and Malcolm X's daughter Ilyasah Shabazz, and also includes a timeline of Malcolm's life. For more visit: [...]

X is the fictional retelling of the early life of Malcolm X with his daughter and stellar, Kekla Magoon. Thoroughly researched using his diaries and writings, the reader meets Malcolm as a six year old when he loses his father. This incident is pivotal in his later development and the reader learns about his disillusionment with his parent's uplifting "you can do anything" talks. We follow Malcolm as he flees his home in Flint and lives in Boston and New York, totally absorbed in the high life and hustles, along with drugs, dating a white woman and burglary, which lands him in jail. I could not put this book down; the time period Malcolm lived in was rife with racism; he came from a solid family but his parents' convictions resulted in Malcolm's downfall and running away from the love and support of his family. It was his time in prison, writing to his family, and embracing Islam that mark a turning point in his life to become the leader of his people.

This was an excellent read! I would recommend it to anyone who has ever been fascinated with the life and times of Malcolm X. This book does an excellent job of telling a fine story of how Malcolm X came to be from just a young boy as Malcolm Little all the way into his late teen (early 20's) years

as Red. I found his daughter's notes at the end of the book about her father as she knew as a child and from her family's stories of him really made this novel even more compelling. The wealth of factual notes she continues to provide at the end of the novel were highly appreciated and provided a welcomed understanding of just how this advocate for African-American right became the man we learned about as Malcolm X, aka El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz. Lastly, I am seriously considering reading the other historical fiction by the contributing author, Kekla Magoon. Overall, I proudly give this novel 5 stars! It was an awesome read!!!

Excellent writing of Malcolm, thanks for sharing another piece of His legacy! Sad that these so-called black leaders today lack Malcolms charisma, insight, purpose, and message.

Malcom X is a personal hero for me!

Shabazz offers a unique point of view, showing us the humility of the boy, her father, who grew to become Malcolm X.

powerful

Amazing and riveting

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