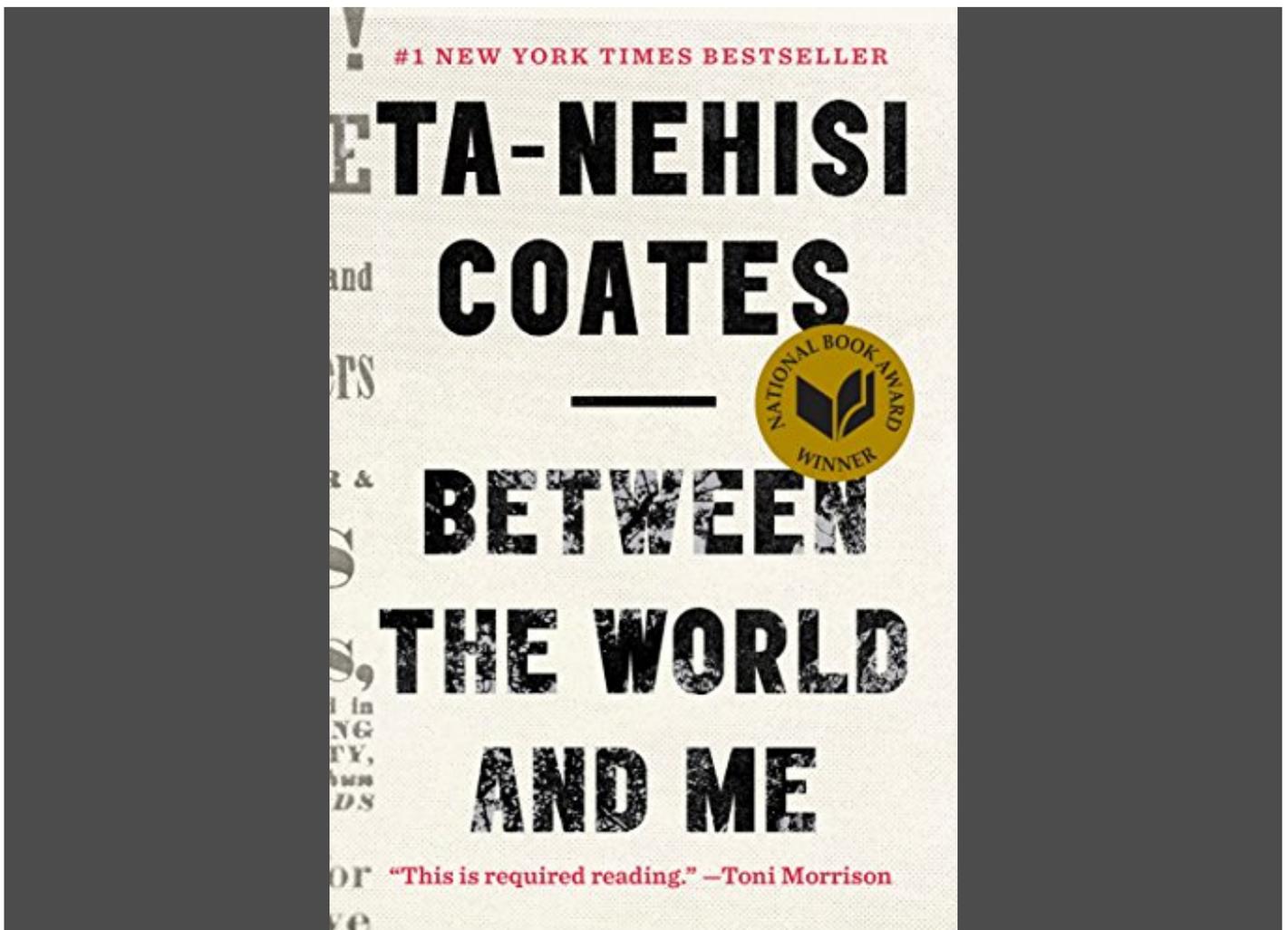


PDF | Between the World and Me

by Ta-Nehisi Coates



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Hailed by Toni Morrison as “required reading,” a bold and personal literary exploration of America’s racial history by “the single best writer on the subject of race in the United States” (*The New York Observer*)

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER | NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER | NAACP IMAGE AWARD WINNER | PULITZER PRIZE FINALIST | NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD FINALIST | NAMED ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY *The New York Times Book Review* • *O: The Oprah Magazine* • *The Washington Post* • *People* • *Entertainment Weekly* • *Vogue* • *Los Angeles Times* • *San Francisco Chronicle* • *Chicago Tribune* • *New York* • *Newsday* • *Library Journal* • *Publishers Weekly*

In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation’s history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of “race,” a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden?

Between the World and Me is Ta-Nehisi Coates’s attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. Coates shares with his son—and readers—the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world through a series of revelatory experiences, from Howard University to Civil War battlefields, from the South Side of Chicago

to Paris, from his childhood home to the living rooms of mothers whose children's lives were taken as American plunder. Beautifully woven from personal narrative, reimagined history, and fresh, emotionally charged reportage, *Between the World and Me* clearly illuminates the past, bravely confronts our present, and offers a transcendent vision for a way forward.

Praise for *Between the World and Me*

“Powerful . . . a searing meditation on what it means to be black in America today.”—**Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times***

“Eloquent . . . in the tradition of James Baldwin with echoes of Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man* . . . an autobiography of the black body in America.”—***The Boston Globe***

“Brilliant . . . [Coates] is firing on all cylinders.”—***The Washington Post***

“Urgent, lyrical, and devastating . . . a new classic of our time.”—***Vogue***

“A crucial book during this moment of generational awakening.”—***The New Yorker***

“Titanic and timely . . . essential reading.”—***Entertainment Weekly***

Amazon.com Review

An Amazon Best Book of July 2015: Readers of his work in *The Atlantic* and elsewhere know Ta-Nehisi Coates for his thoughtful and influential writing on race in America. Written as a series of letters to his teenaged son, his new memoir, *Between the World and Me*, walks us through the course of his life, from the tough neighborhoods of Baltimore in his youth, to Howard University—which Coates dubs “The Mecca” for its revelatory community of black students and teachers—to the broader Meccas of New York and Paris. Coates describes his observations and the evolution of his thinking on race, from Malcolm X to his conclusion that race itself is a fabrication, elemental to the concept of American (white) exceptionalism. Ferguson, Trayvon Martin, and South Carolina are not bumps on the road of progress and harmony, but the results of a systemized, ubiquitous threat to “black bodies” in the form of slavery, police brutality, and mass incarceration. Coates is direct and, as usual, uncommonly insightful and original. There are no wasted words. This is a powerful and exceptional book. --*Jon Foro*



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