

PDF | James Baldwin: A Biography

by David Leeming

JAMES BALDWIN

a biography



DAVID LEEMING

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James Baldwin was one of the great writers of the last century. In works that have become part of the American canon *Go Tell It on a Mountain*, *Giovanni's Room*, *Another Country*, *The Fire Next Time*, and *The Evidence of Things Not Seen* he explored issues of race and racism in America, class distinction, and sexual difference. A gay, African American writer who was born in Harlem, he found the freedom to express himself living in exile in Paris. When he returned to America to cover the Civil Rights movement, he became an activist and controversial spokesman for the movement, writing books that became bestsellers and made him a celebrity, landing him on the cover of *Time*.

In this biography, which *Library Journal* called indispensable, David Leeming creates an intimate portrait of a complex, troubled, driven, and brilliant man. He plumbs every aspect of Baldwin's life: his relationships with the unknown and the famous, including painter Beauford Delaney, Richard Wright, Lorraine Hansberry, Marlon Brando, Harry Belafonte, Lena Horne, and childhood friend Richard Avedon; his expatriate years in France and Turkey; his gift for compassion and love; the public pressures that overwhelmed his quest for happiness, and his passionate battle for black identity, racial justice, and to end the racial nightmare and achieve our country."

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