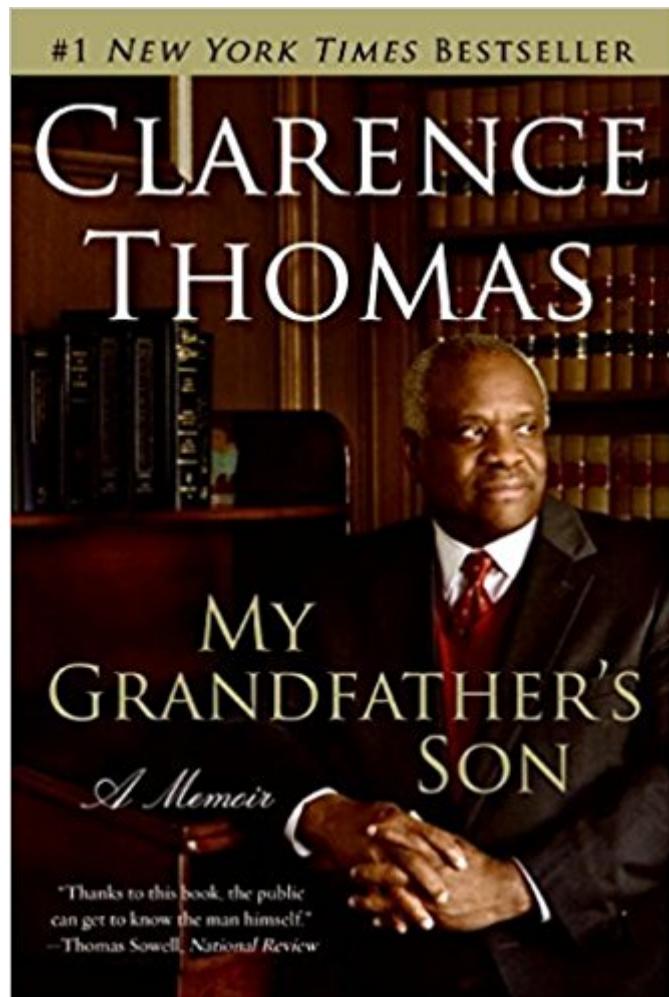


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My Grandfather's Son: A Memoir



Synopsis

Provocative, inspiring, and unflinchingly honest, *My Grandfather's Son* is the story of one of America's most remarkable and controversial leaders, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, told in his own words. Thomas speaks out, revealing the pieces of his life he holds dear, detailing the suffering and injustices he has overcome, including the acrimonious and polarizing Senate hearing involving a former aide, Anita Hill, and the depression and despair it created in his own life and the lives of those closest to him. In this candid and deeply moving memoir, a quintessential American tale of hardship and grit, Clarence Thomas recounts his astonishing journey for the first time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Clarence Thomas is Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Born in Pinpoint, Georgia, he is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross and Yale Law School. He lives with his wife and great nephew in northern Virginia.

Justice Thomas' memoir relates his rise from poverty to the elite circles of Washington as a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, with a particular focus on the events that surrounded his confirmation hearings. He clearly feels a strong desire to tell his story, not only in his own words, but also in his own voice in this audiobook. Although his narration is clear and articulate, it is also studied and deliberate. He reads in a relatively flat tone that seldom varies, even in portions of the book in which his written words express strong emotions and firm convictions. J.E.M. © AudioFile 2008,

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Clarence Thomas had every reason in the world to fail. Born poor to a single mom, never meeting his father until the age of nine, ill-educated, living on the streets of Savannah, Georgia -- the bad side of town. Growing up black in the south in the 50's and 60's, there was no reason to predict that Clarence Thomas would ever succeed. His mother's parents intervened in his life, stepping in to raise him and his brother. They brought him from a world of dirt-poor beginnings into a world of lower-middle class luxuries (indoor plumbing, kitchen appliances, food to eat). His grandfather clarified the connection between what he provided for the children, and what was required of them. Good grades, good work habits, and good manners were REQUIRED. The book highlights some of the breaks Thomas caught as a youth and a young man. A good education in a Catholic school, the opportunity to go to seminary and then to Holy Cross and then to Yale, managing to make it through alcoholism, and some of the personal connections he made. I was very interested to read his criticisms of large government and the welfare state (pp. 72-73), and his candid assessment of the desegregation/busing movement (p.143). He does a dynamite job on Natural Law (p.221). If you are looking for a good, solid rags-to-riches inspirational story, this book can provide that. If you are looking for some humor and some politics, the book has that, too. There was a down side: Too much Anita Hill. Honestly. People who like Justice Thomas consider her a fraud. People who dislike Justice Thomas believe every word. Way too much of this book dealt with her accusations and his confirmation hearings. When the memoir was written (in 2007), Thomas had been on the court for 17 years -- the book would have been much more interesting if it had talked a little about those almost 2 decades.

I just read "The Nine" by Jeffrey Toobin (A book I recommend) which details the lives of the Supreme Court Justices. I was particularly intrigued with the section about Clarence Thomas. Being that I was only 4 years old when Justice Thomas got nominated to the SCOTUS, I don't remember the difficult time he had to go through in order to get confirmed by the Senate. All I knew about Justice Thomas is that people seem to love him or hate him. But I was determined to learn more about him since I liked what I read about him in "The Nine." This book gave me insight into the life of Clarence Thomas like I had not known before. He was born in Pin Point, GA, a "town" that barely shows up on Google maps. His father was never in his life and mother couldn't afford to raise both him and his brother so she dropped them off at their Grandparents house one day and so begins

the journey of Justice Thomas. Thomas' Grandfather worked hard to send him to Catholic school throughout his secondary education career. The first half of the book chronicles the different schools Thomas went to and how he had to overcome discrimination in the segregated Deep South. Second half of the book is about Justice Thomas' struggles after graduating law school, trying to make ends meet as he was married with a child making a menial salary while paying off student loans he accumulated. The last 2-3 chapters, Thomas tells his side of the "Anita Hill" scandal and what he and his family went through personally. It was a scandal that nearly derailed his Supreme Court nomination (as if he hadn't run into a stonewall before that). Overall, while reading "My Grandfather's Son", I believe I got an in-depth never before seen account of Justice Thomas' life and career. I admire his courage and ability to overcome all obstacles he has faced. It is a terrific book that I highly recommend.

Not a man I agree with politically or philosophically, but a very well written memoir. It left me with a feeling of respect and admiration for someone who has worked hard and followed his own beliefs to become a member of the Supreme Court.

Ok was very impressed with Clarence Thomas life. He truly worked very hard to accomplish so much he never caved in to the trash that was thrown at him by liberals, he is a man of integrity and has a deep love for God, his family and America

Well written and a really good read! It seems to depict with harsh honesty his early years and how the anchoring values in his life were set. His "side of the story" of his nomination for Supreme Court Justice and the truly bitter confirmation process is a story that needs to be told, and he does it well. In my ten years in Washington DC in a leadership position, I have no difficulty understanding just how nasty the media can be if a person fits outside the medias rather consistent political value system. Whether you agree or strongly disagree with Justice Thomas, the book is a really enjoyable, insightful read.

Wonderful book about a wonderful man. History of childhood and trial and tribulations overcome by this the quietest and maybe the most influential supreme court justice and probably the most unappreciated. The persecution he has suffered and then just calmly writes about is amazing. Great Read !

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