


# **Black Profiles in Courage: A Legacy of African-American Achievement**

*Kareem Abdul-Jabbar , Alan Steinberg*

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In this ideal introduction to black history, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar examines the lives of heroic African Americans and offers their stories as inspiring examples for young people, who too rarely encounter positive black role models in history books or in the media.

Profiled here are Peter Salem, the volunteer soldier who turned the tide at Bunker Hill; Joseph Cinque, leader of a daring revolt on the slave ship Amistad; Frederick Douglass, self-taught writer-orator and escaped slave who forced President Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation years ahead of schedule; Harriet Tubman, who led at least three hundred slaves to freedom; Lewis Latimer, whose scientific work was integral to the achievements of Bell and Edison; and many more.

Shining a bright light on the touchstones of character, these exemplary stories reemphasize the integral role of African Americans in weaving the fabric of our nation and form an empowering legacy from which Americans of all ages can draw inspiration, wisdom, and pride.

## Black Profiles in Courage: A Legacy of African-American Achievement Details

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## **From Reader Review Black Profiles in Courage: A Legacy of African-American Achievement for online ebook**

### **Kay Daniels says**

Beautifully compiled, very informative!

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### **Roman Petrich says**

I enjoyed reading this book. It's really interesting, I never knew I would learn so much just by reading the book. Personally I don't enjoy reading autobiographies which is the reason It got a 3/5. I picked the book due to me wanting to learn more about black history. I would recommend reading this book to anyone who is interested in black history and culture.

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### **Emily says**

This is the book for you if you are into history! It is a collection of biographies on important, courageous African Americans. I think Kareem Abdul-Jabbar did a nice job on tell these stories, but i felt he was a little to "woe is me." All in all, i enjoyed it!

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### **Victor McGuire says**

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar identifies and highlights the lives of blacks that have had strong profiles...

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### **Theophilus (Theo) says**

Loved it. It gave me so many more books to read to find out more about the people in this book.

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### **Phil James says**

I believe this was at the Newberry Library that I came across this book, and used it for the Lewis Latimer bio.

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### **Dee says**

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar has been a person we have long admired. His book is about people who have presented an example for him to admire.

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**Alejandro Camacho says**

This book talked about the history about blacks. This told about people that had been in the times in racism. it had told about people that had died in the times of the racism. I will recommend this book to anybody that likes books about black history month.

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**Bernadette says**

Educational and inspirational, the profiles presented seek to end the confusion about the roles of Black people in USA history, debunking the myths perpetuated in many history books, if we are mentioned at all, of Blacks as ignorant, uncivilized, non-contributors to the building of this country. In doing so, Mr. Abdul-Jabbar emphasizes the key roles played by Black people in creating this nation, while emphasizing our moral center and character, so that young people feel connected to our heritage, our country and each other. "Knowledge is power;" understanding one's heritage is a good way to exercise that power. Defining courage as recognizing when something needs to be done and doing it, even when there are easier choices, the author is truly "doing the right thing" with this book.

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**Scott Boyken says**

An extremely well researched book. To say I've come away with a greater appreciation for the role African Americans have played in shaping our nation's history is an understatement. The only complaint I have is the writing is a little inconsistent at times, but overall an important and impressive read.

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**Sharon says**

This was a good history book, I felt its down fall was the authors. Many times he went to far on his personal feelings and ended up taking away the importance of the history. To change things one has to let go of the past, this author seems to be living in a time before he was born. Other then that it was a good book.

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**Adrienne Haroldgordon says**

Excellent book!

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**Dale says**

**Makes a solid case that the people discussed should be part of everyone's history books, not just special histories.**

*Originally published in 1996.*

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar presents a look at American history through a different lens than you usually see. This book follows from even before the arrival of Columbus through Rosa Parks receiving her just accolades in the 1990's. His underlying theme, as explained in the title, is that African-Americans have been contributing in important ways the entire time, but they are often "whitewashed" from history.

Abdul-Jabbar is best known for his time as a top-level basketball player. But he is not just a jock (if you are a fan, you know he never was just a jock) - he is also an amateur historian and quite thoughtful. Clearly, he was inspired by the book *Profiles in Courage* by John F. Kennedy but this book is not structured in any way like that classic.

The book starts with its weakest proposition from a historical perspective. There are historians that assert that African peoples were heavily involved in Mesoamerican history (Mayas, Aztecs, Olmecs) and Abdul-Jabbar agrees with them. While it is interesting to ponder, I think that, at best, it can be said that there maybe some influence there - or maybe not. We cannot be definitively sure, even if there are tantalizingly suggestive clues, due to the lack of historical records on both sides of the Atlantic and a genetic record that has been muddled by intermixing for the last 500+ years.

But, the rest of the book is really quite strong. I very much enjoyed his biographical sketches of Crispus Attucks, Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass, especially Crispus Attucks. Abdul-Jabbar makes a solid case that the people he discusses should be part of everyone's history books, not just special themed history books.

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