

Affrilachia: Poems by Frank X Walker


By Frank X Walker


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Now in its eighth printing, Frank X Walker's pathbreaking book of poems *Affrilachia* is a classic of Appalachian and African-American literature. Walker created the word "Affrilachia" to help make visible the experience of African-Americans living in the rural and Appalachian South. The book is widely used in classrooms and is one of the foundational works of the Affrilachian Poets, a community of writers offering fresh ways to think about diversity in the Appalachian region and beyond.

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Affrilachia: Poems by Frank X Walker By Frank X Walker Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #570608 in Books
- Published on: 2000-03-01
- Released on: 2000-03-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.75" h x 5.50" w x .25" l, .38 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 112 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"Finally, a gathering of words that fiercely speaks to what it truly means to grow up African-American in Appalachia. These are not stories of those of us transplanted conveniently into the territory for whatever reason. These poem-stories are from a native Affrilachian heart, more specifically, from the man who first created the word in order to define and not be rendered invisible. This personal poetic narrative is a historic valuable offering, one man's unapologetic truth, granting us an eagle eye view into what it means to be young, Black, artistic, and male in America as one century comes to an end and another begins. His poetry looks you in the eye, in plain-spoken unembellished, heartfelt language. Anyone who knows about the human heart and human nature can read it." --Nikky Finney, author of *Head Off & Split* (Triquarterly), winner of the 2011 National Book Award for Poetry

"The poems in *Affrilachia* are funny and sad, tragic and hopeful, angry and determined, and as filled with generosity and love as poetry by any American writer in a generation. This book is powerful and beautiful. It is honest and true." --Gurney Norman, author of *Ancient Creek: A Folktale, Kinfolks, and Divine Right's Trip*

About the Author

Frank X Walker is a native of Danville, Kentucky. He is cofounder of the Affrilachian Poets, a group of African-American writers whose work addresses themes of race, family, place, social justice, and identity in the Appalachian South. He is Professor of English at the University of Kentucky.

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Statues of Liberty

mamma scrubbed rich white porcelain and hard wood floors on her hands and knees hid her pretty face and body in sack dresses and aunt jemima scarves from predators who assumed for a few extra dollars before christmas in dark kitchen pantries they could unwrap her present

aunt helen, her sister took in miss emereen's laundry every Saturday morning sent it back hand washed, air dried, starched ironed, folded and cleaner than any professional service she waited patiently for her good white woman to die and make good on her promise to leave her a little something only to leave her first

aunt berthia, the eldest exported her maternal skills to suburbia to provide surrogate attention to children of money and privilege and spent every other moment preaching about the richness of the afterlife before the undertaker took her to see for herself

housekeepers washer women maids a whole generation of portable day care centers traded their days for dimes allowing other women the freedom to shop and sunbathe the opportunity to school or work

this curse-swallowing sorority dodged dicks and bosses before postwar women punched clocks they birthed civil and human rights gave the women's movement legs sacrificed their then to pave the way for a NOW their hard-earned pennies sent us off to college and into the world our success is their reward we are their monuments but they are our statues of liberty

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Allan Carle:

What do you consider book? It is just for students since they are still students or the item for all people in the world, the particular best subject for that? Only you can be answered for that issue above. Every person has various personality and hobby per other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't would like do that. You must know how great as well as important the book Affrilachia: Poems by Frank X Walker. All type of book would you see on many solutions. You can look for the internet options or other social media.

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Gregory McKinney:

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