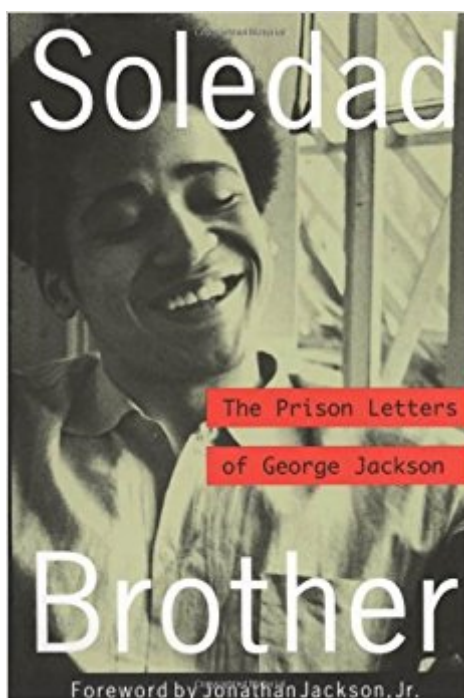


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Soledad Brother: The Prison Letters Of George Jackson



Synopsis

A collection of Jackson's letters from prison, *Soledad Brother* is an outspoken condemnation of the racism of white America and a powerful appraisal of the prison system that failed to break his spirit but eventually took his life. Jackson's letters make palpable the intense feelings of anger and rebellion that filled black men in America's prisons in the 1960s. But even removed from the social and political firestorms of the 1960s, Jackson's story still resonates for its portrait of a man taking a stand even while locked down.

Book Information

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Chicago Review Press; New edition edition (September 1, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1556522304

ISBN-13: 978-1556522307

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 45 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #37,155 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional U.S. > West](#) #25 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Essays & Correspondence > Letters](#) #139 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > African-American & Black](#)

Customer Reviews

Jackson gained notoriety shortly before his death in 1970 when his younger brother unsuccessfully tried to free him at gunpoint when Jackson and two others were on trial for killing a guard. Written between 1964 and 1970 while serving time in Soledad Prison for robbery, the letters reveal the brutality and racism faced by prisoners and call for unity among African Americans. This edition contains a new foreword by Jackson's nephew Jonathan. *Soledad Brother* remains "recommended for most libraries" (LJ 12/15/70) and is a solid title for Black History Month in February. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

“The most important single volume from a black since *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*.” —Julius Lester, *The New York Times Book Review* “The power of George Jackson's personal story remains painfully relevant to our nation today, with its persistent racism, its

hellish prisons, its unjust judicial system, and the poles of wealth and poverty that are at the root of all that. I hope the younger generation, black and white, will read Soledad Brother."~ ~
~ç~ -~ •Howard Zinn, author, A People's History of the United States

I enjoyed reading this letters George Jackson wrote to various family members, friends and the people who tried to help him get out of prison. He couldn't give "detailed accounts" of what was going on, but you can imagine from some of the things he was able to write about, what he and others were going through. It's unfortunate that they never proved him guilty of the money theft, and so very unfortunate that he was given one year to "life" for stealing! As he clearly states, so many brothers were in jail during that time who, initially were "not guilty", but by the time a parole came up, he was guilty of "something" that was brought on by mere survival in prison. All the disappointments he went through with every parole hearing denials, lies and manipulations! Had I not read the book on the life of Angela Davis first, I would have been hopeful he was going to get out of prison while reading, "they said If I don't get in any trouble in six months (3 months, a year), I can have a parole hearing", only to be disappointed to read there was a new panel and they made no such promises were made or they did something to provoke him so he **WOULD** get in trouble and his hearing was denied. I recommend this reading to as many young men should starting at the age of 14 - give them a **BETTER** perspective on what it's like to be in prison and hopefully deter them from going down that path!

Soledad Brother is classic. It is a great work of transformation and liberation for an individual who spent the majority of his life in prison. In the end Jackson used his transformation to free himself from the physical imprisonment he had encountered. Although murder by those whose imprisoned him, Soledad Brother is Jackson's enduring legacy to freedom through enlightenment and true education.

As expected!

"Soledad Brother" is a powerful testament to the struggle of George Jackson to bring truth and find justice in a totally un-just system. The letters of George Jackson put you in that cruel jail cell right next to him. His words and his totally uncompromising spirit will stir your soul with emotions. From pain and anger, to sorrow, but he will also make you laugh ultimately though, he will educate you. Because George Jackson is a teacher...a most compelling teacher. He teaches with love but he

mixes it with a strong dose of rebuke; particularly against those who have the nature of a quisling. He rips apart the falsehoods that create conflicts of Race and class. Then he relates the purposes for such divisions. He gives graphic insights concerning the "Civil Rights" struggles that marked the tumultuous, game changing, decade of the Sixties. Apparently, his warnings were not heeded and his letters could have been written today. "Soledad Brother" is a must read not just for Black people, but for all people who are lovers of truth, justice and freedom!

It is a first person commentary on the judicial system in America ... an indeterminate to life sentence for stealing \$70?? He was a youngster born into a country whose history against people of color is flawed. This young man's ability to describe his life before incarceration and then to vividly paint his life while incarcerated makes me wonder what he would have become had he been allowed to flourish to his old age. This is a must read. I have yet to finish reading it as I feel it deserves a slow read in order to absorb the intent of his words. May he rest in peace.

I just recieved book yesterday. Only skimmed through it but seems really interesting. It's heartbreaking what happened to him. May he rest in peace.

great look at this man's life.

Nice book

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