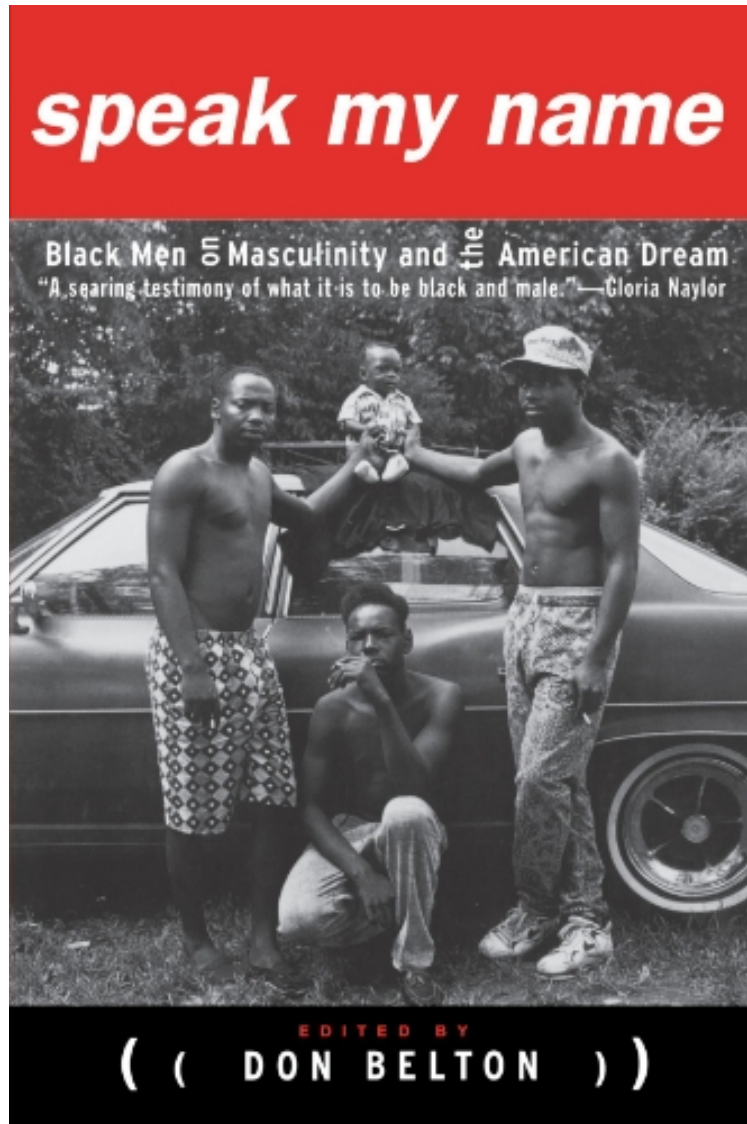


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Speak My Name: Black Men on Masculinity and the American Dream

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From Brand: Beacon Press : Speak My Name: Black Men on Masculinity and the American Dream before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Speak My Name: Black Men on Masculinity and the American Dream:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. STATBy CustomerRead it. Weep. Then do something worthy of us all.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. a pioneering textBy Jeffery MingoThis is one of the first

anthologies focusing on Black masculinities. Books like "Black Men on Race, Gender, and Sexuality" or "Black Men in Their Own Words" owe credit to it. The authors are diverse in terms of age, academic affiliation, sexual orientation, and citizenship. My favorite chapter is the dialogue between Essex Hemphill and Isaac Julien. Some have complained that men's studies texts are Eurocentric or unfairly assume that men face no oppressions. Powerful books like Belton's challenge those fallacies. There is a chance that some may feel the book is dated now. However, at its publication, it was revolutionary and much-needed. I highly recommend it.

Including the work of Derrick Bell, Trey Ellis, Haki Madhubuti, Clarence Major, Walter Mosley, Quincy Troupe, John Edgar Wideman, and August Wilson, among others, *Speak My Name* explores the intimate territory behind the myths about black masculinity.

.com The nearly 30 essays collected here explore aspects of what it is to be a black man in America that all too often don't appear on television or in the newspapers. Writers as well-known as John Edgar Wideman and Walter Mosley (as well as emerging writers whose names we'll soon know better) consider the experience of being a son or being a father, meditate on violence and its effects, and share their losses, joys and triumphs. From Publishers Weekly This diverse anthology, mainly of original essays, serves as an excellent counterpoint to media stereotypes of black men. Topics include black male images, relations with women, family life and heroism. Some favorites: soft-voiced scholar Robin D.G. Kelley recounts how his newly shaved head scared people; novelist Randall Kenan recalls a mysterious, kind and loving mentor; Quinn Eli faces the tendency of black men to accuse black women of not being supportive; filmmaker Isaac Julien and poet Essex Hemphill debate whether black unity can include gay men; novelist Walter Mosley muses about why his PI protagonist, Easy Rawlins, needs the backup of the remorseless killer Mouse to survive in an oppressive world. Belton, a former reporter for Newsweek who teaches at Macalester College, contributes his own touching effort, which treats the gap between himself and the ghetto-trapped nephew he loves. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Contemporary American society is rife with stereotypes of African American males as athletes, entertainers, criminals, or victims. Following in the wake of October's Million Man March on Washington are two myth-shattering books on African American men. Through writings or interviews, both titles explore the life experiences of black men struggling to survive in a white society. In *Living To Tell About It*, Dawsey, a Detroit native and writer for the Detroit News, visited nine cities and interviewed black men from the ages of 15 to 24. Interviews covered issues concerning parent/child relationships, work, violence, and respect. In most instances Dawsey blames the white power structure. In *Speak My Name*, Belton, a former Newsweek reporter, presents a diverse anthology of original writings countering many of society's stigmatized images. These essays touch upon African American men's self-image, family life, and personal relationships. Both books are essential selections for African American studies collections. ?Michael A. Lutes, Univ. of Notre Dame Libs., South Bend, Ind. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.