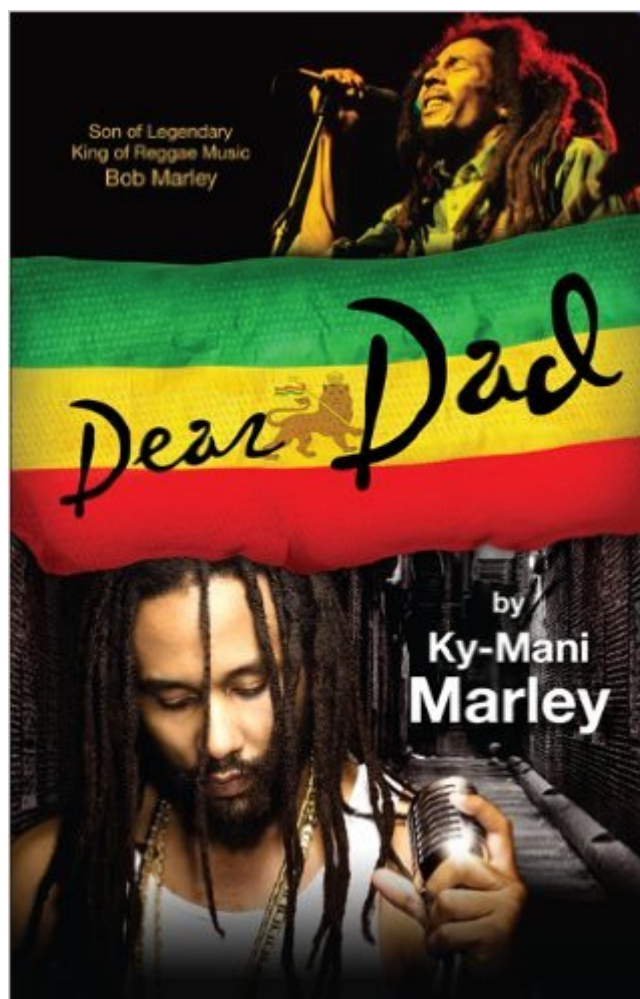


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Dear Dad



Synopsis

The Marley surname perpetuates Jamaican royalty, resonates from worldwide recognition and represents the pioneer of a cultural, political and social revolution. In the near-thirty years since the death of the world's greatest reggae-music icon, music lovers, truth seekers, and a new generation of social-activists alike have flocked to the musical catalog of Bob Marley like new believers on a pilgrimage for soul inspiration. Though Marley's iconic life was cut short before his time, his legacy lives on as vibrantly as it did when he walked among us. This is not only true because of his timeless music, but because of the musical genius of the extraordinary children he left behind. Born in Falmouth, Jamaica in 1976 as the tenth son of legendary reggae icon Bob Marley, Ky-Mani Marley discovered his musical talents late in life, rising to become an international music artist and film actor. Ky-Mani has not only written and performed songs of redemption around the world, like his famous father, but has lived and survived to recant his own personally redemptive story in the face of some very stark urban realities unbefitting any human, let alone a 'Marley.' 'Dear Dad,' is an arresting narrative of a son locked out of his iconic father's shelter for the first half of his life and forced to survive the poverty-stricken, predator-infested streets of one of Miami's most violent ghettos, Liberty City. Initially estranged from his siblings and cut off from any financial benefit of the Marley Estate, young Ky-Mani's gritty ascent from a bullet-riddled life to the world stages he now commands as a Grammy-nominated recording artist are chronicled in this gripping biography. Today a dedicated father and family man traveling to all corners of the world, performing no less than 100 shows per year, Marley knew he'd reached a plateau of transformation in his life when he was named 'Philanthropist of the Year' by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, Better World Awards. His life is truly a 'redemption song.'

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I just recently purchased this book and must say that I really enjoyed Kymani's tell-it-like-it is truth! He tells his story with such great descriptive narrations that it felt like you were there with him reminiscing. Unfortunately, being a child out of wedlock and having a mega star Dad can have his ups and downs. Having "Marley" behind his name, didn't give Kymani the rights to the fruits and labor of the lavish life that his siblings lived growing up in the mansion. I sympathize with Kymani in the sense that he wasn't asked to be borned and yet he had to grow up fast in an environment he had no control over. I loved Kymani's honesty, humor and love for his family. The only downside I had with this book is that he didn't include pictures of himself as a youth or through the years. That would of been cool

I just read the book and to me it is more than just a story of his growing up. I think it is a plea to his siblings to understand his point of view and move aside differences, view life going forward as grown ups they now are and live the life of one love their father lived by. I totally relate to him in the sense that I too lost a parent at a very young age, and for the rest of our lives we think and fantasise about what our lives would be like, how it would be different had that parent being alive to see us through to adulthood. Well done Ky-Mani. I love your story and I grew up in the same kind of poverty you did in Jamaica and saw that around me everywhere. Like you, I loved that childhood because there was always food and there was love. Honestly, I didn't even realise I was poor. I completed the book in one evening, not only because the story is intersting but it was easy to read. It was written as if Ky-Mani was sitting across from me, telling me his story.

This book brings to light the struggles Ky-Mani experienced compared to what one might expect to son of an icon would experience. Ultimately, this book shows the endurance Ky-Mani has. Many can relate to the pains children may experience being born to woman who is not the wife of a married man or the pains experienced when a parent dies, which Ky-Mani describes in the book. Ki-Mani shows that he wants to be closer to his siblings and wants their unconditional love. He also says he is seen as the "black sheep" of the family, rather than being seen as a survivor of very different circumstances than other Marley children. I detect there is resentment between Rita Marley

and Ky-Mani Marley, that she intentionally left this child out to spite the other mother. I enjoyed learning about Ky-Mani's story. I feel for him and think of him as being more like his father because his father wasn't raised in luxury, far from it. Ky-Mani is street smart and tough like his father. I have to criticize the writing for its overwhelming redundancy and abrupt ending without a complete resolution (I expected it to go on when it just ended); then again, I am an English teacher and cannot help but be hyper aware this book has flaws in writing and could have used a better proof reader, editor, etc. Truly, though, as a die hard Marley fan, including a lover of his father's, siblings', and step mother's music and works, I'm glad to know about some of his experiences and do believe he has done incredibly well, driven by a force greater than any person can control or understand.

"Dear Dad," is an interesting and easy memoir to read. It details Ky-Mani Marley's childhood in Jamaica, his move to a Florida slum, the challenges he faced growing up without his father, his discovery of his musical gifts and philanthropic deeds. Throughout the chapters, he shares some funny and amazing anecdotes which provide the reader with insight into his life and the factors/events that shaped him into the man he became. At times Marley repeats himself and his use of expletives was off-putting; however, I would still recommend this book as his story is indeed inspiring.

I enjoyed reading about Ky-Mani's childhood although I was a little disappointed that there was not much mention of his dad, which I guess might have been due to the fact that his dad passed away when he was still quite young. I commend him though for keeping his head up despite growing up in what seemed like a tough neighborhood in Miami. I also commend his mum for realizing that he was heading down the wrong path and got him out of there. Kuddos to your mum for the AWESOME son she raised. All too often single mum's are not given credit.

I didn't know Kymani Marley had a book out but I quickly purchased it. You know how you get hooked in your purchases :) This book is so real that I couldn't put it down. I love the way Kymani tells his story and it's as if you are sitting with him and he is telling you how things went down with him. You are able to imagine what his personality is like. I was really surprised at the information he shared about his experience growing up and being the "black sheep" I was really moved and just wanted to write him a letter letting him know he is going to be okay and give him a big hug (I know that is silly but it moved me that much). I was especially moved by his experience the day of his father's death and funeral. Being a Jamaica Native myself, when a famous person dies it is true that

you will hear the funeral on your neighbor's radio, tv, outside speakers and you have no escape (like when Ranny Williams a famous Jamaican comedian died). It's just broadcasted everywhere. So I felt sad that Kymani had to experience that when his dad died. There were some repetitive talk about his growing up etc which in a book I feel the repetitions can be filled with more information on his life versus repeating the same information in almost every chapter (growing up in the streets, hustlin, etc). But it also showed a side to him that was very appealing, he expresses himself deeply. Attractive actually. I wouldn't mind just sitting and listening to him, while twisting his locks. LOL!!! Great book. I see there is some controversy now regarding the content, but I feel if it's true deal with it. Kymani is only expressing his pain the way he knows how and that should be respected. Period. Great Book!!!!

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