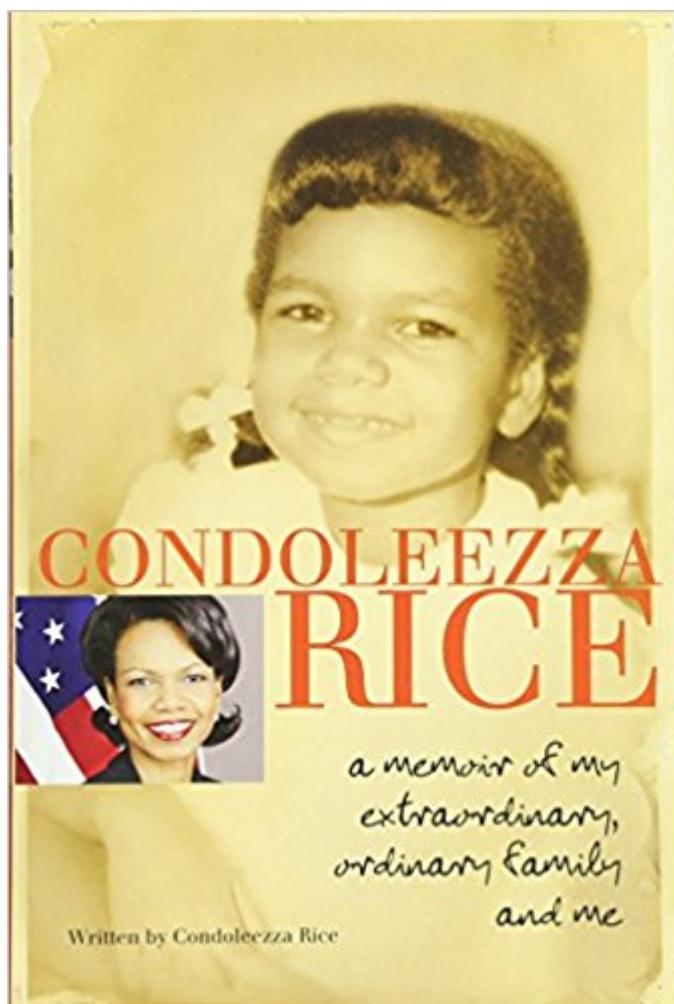


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# Condoleezza Rice: A Memoir Of My Extraordinary, Ordinary Family And Me



## Synopsis

From Condoleezza Rice, former secretary of state and New York Times bestselling author of Democracy: Stories from the Long Road to Freedom, comes a captivating memoir of her remarkable childhood. Condoleezza Rice's life began in Birmingham, Alabama in the 1950s, a place and time where black people lived in a segregated parallel universe away from their white neighbors. She grew up during the violent and shocking 1960s, when bloodshed became a part of daily life in the South. Rice's portrait of her parents, John and Angelena, highlights their ambitions and frustrations and shows how much they sacrificed to give their beloved only child the best chance for success. Rice also discusses the challenges of being a precocious child who was passionate about music, ice skating, history, and current affairs. Her memoir reveals with vivid clarity how her early experiences sowed the seeds of her political beliefs and helped her become a vibrant, successful woman.

Condoleezza Rice: A Memoir of My Extraordinary, Ordinary Parents and Me is a fascinating and inspirational story for young people. Includes a 16-page photo insert.

Praise for Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family:

- The New York Times: "A thrilling, inspiring life of achievement."
- Publishers Weekly: "Surprisingly engrossing . . ."
- Daily Beast: "Vivid and heartfelt writing . . . Highly recommended."
- Library Journal

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up-The former Secretary of State recounts her life, beginning with her family history and

childhood in Birmingham, AL, during the 1950s and '60s. From extremely supportive parents she learned that she could become anything she put her mind to, despite the rampant racism that existed in the South. A 16-page insert of black-and-white and color photos adds detail, and the glossary has more information on the many political leaders whom Rice refers to in the book. This valuable memoir about breaking glass ceilings may inspire readers to test their own potential.-Stephanie Malosh, Donoghue Elementary School, Chicago, IL (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This slightly distilled version of former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's concurrently published autobiography, *Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family*, hits all the high points of Rice's life. Raised in Birmingham, Alabama, Rice was the daughter of parents who convinced her that, as she puts it, "even if she couldn't have a hamburger at the Woolworth's lunch counter, she could be president of the United States." Filled with fascinating photos, this will not only introduce young people to a groundbreaking woman but will also give them a real sense of what life was like growing up in the segregated south in the 1950s and 1960s. High-school libraries might want the adult version of the book, but this one costs 10 dollars less. Grades 7-9. --Ilene Cooper --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is an extraordinary book written by a woman I've long admired. *CONDOLEEZZA RICE: A MEMOIR OF MY EXTRAORDINARY, ORDINARY FAMILY AND ME* won the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work for Youth/Teens. But even an old white geezer like me was able to dovetail its messages into my ordinary life and realize that special people are inspirations to be listened to and emulate. Reading for enjoyment is my most important goal. But learning from what I read is almost as important and sometimes ignored. In Dr. Rice's book I heard three important messages; cherish your parents and the heritage they have given you, keep your vision strong and focused, and don't give in to lesser urges that threaten to disrupt your life's journey. I have bumbled through three-quarters of a century skirting the edges of all three. I have followed the career of this beautiful and skilled woman, never failing to be moved by her lifework. Her remarkable rise to be Secretary of State for the United States of America is a story every person, young or old, should honor. Her spirit, willingness to accept any challenge, and ability to overcome obstacles of race, gender, and age are traits unlike any other I've witnessed. I see pride, devotion, and a certain

pugnacious attitude towards criticism that has propelled her to the forefront of world leaders. We may never know the true story of her behind-the-scenes comportment. I sensed a certain resistance to interference with her priorities in her writing. I suspect that she voiced opinions that were so strong and well-grounded that opposition was seldom exercised. Her racial opinions are reasoned and forceful, yet easily accepted by all except those who don't really deserve a platform. And she plays the piano beautifully, a talent not easily attained. I feel certain that there was immense respect for her with perhaps undertones of resentment and jealousy. Those negative feelings were probably shed by Dr. Rice with graceful ease. This book is important, I think, because of the message it sends to people everywhere that there's really only one right way to pursue life, and that's with a dedication to doing the "right" thing. We all know in our hearts the definition of the "right" thing. Following that knowledge without wavering is the answer to being a happy and valued member of this world. It sounds lofty, but is certainly identifiable and within reach. But it does take effort, something on which Dr. Rice didn't skimp. A big part of that effort is maintaining the love and involvement of your family. Dr. Rice's love of her parents is presented in the strongest and most unapologetic expression I've ever read. It's clear that making sure they understood her love was her most cherished accomplishment. This book is inspirational and full of momentous life lessons from a remarkable person, a must read. Schuyler T Wallace Author of TIN LIZARD TALES

I purchased this book on the recommendation of a coworker. I was hesitant to purchase this book as I had mixed feelings of why I was encouraged to read this book but I am so glad I did. Up until this book I did not know much of Condoleezza's accomplished life or her struggles. This book also gave me a different political perspective on various government programs and concepts. I highly recommend this book for anyone interested in Ms. Rice's career or her political perspective. Great read!

This was a very interesting and effortless read. I had always admired her for her accomplishments, grace and her words during interviews and looked forward to reading more about her life. She was blessed to have come from such a strong family and did have a great start in life notwithstanding the Birmingham surroundings and hatred that she was exposed to. She then picked up the ball and made the absolute most of every opportunity, she is brilliant and I am so glad that I paid heed to a previous reviewer who advised to read this work before she describes her Washington years in the second. As a Northern neighbour who pays attention to US politics and can't bear the thought of a two term Hillary all I can say is draft Condi for 2020!

Condoleezza Rice portrays in this wonderful and well written book the lives of her parents, Rev. John and Angelena Rice. It is quiet evident that they were the wind beneath her wing as she soared to the glorious heights of earthly power. The book begins with her birth Nov. 14, 1954 in Alabama and proceeds towards a life of identifying, cultivating and enjoying the finer things in life. The values of a good education, committed life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the talent of mastering piano at a very young age, were instilled in her by her parents who were dedicated to raising a good and upstanding young lady. These were done against the gigantic challenges of race relation namely; segregation in the south. Ms. Rice's accomplishment despite these challenges is a testament to the character and wisdom of John and Angelena Rice. Racism is a human deformity that will continue to stalk us in our earthly existence. The way to navigate through these rough waters is succinctly delineated in a powerful line in the book; sometimes we cannot control the circumstances that come our way but we sure can control our responses to them. Condoleezza's achievements at this stage in her life is quiet remarkable considering her relatively young age. One marvels given what she had to overcome; the segregation of her upbringing, a black person and a woman in a stratified society. A wonderful read, highly recommended.

An easy read - not the most artfully written, but nonetheless, enjoyable. How an African American family living in Birmingham, Alabama gave birth to a daughter in the 1950's and raised her to truly understand she could be whatever and whomever she wanted to be. Not an easy task in those days in that town. Inspiring and heartfelt.

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