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Unbought And Unbossed: Expanded 40th Anniversary Edition



Synopsis

Unbought and Unbossed is Shirley Chisholm's account of her remarkable rise from young girl in Brooklyn to America's first African-American Congresswoman. She shares how she took on an entrenched system, gave a public voice to millions, and sets the stage for her trailblazing bid to be the first woman and first African-American President of the United States. By daring to be herself, Shirley Chisholm shows us how she forever changed the status quo. This expanded edition, edited by Scott Simpson, digs deeper with analysis by experts like Donna Brazile and Shola Lynch exploring Shirley Chisholm's impact on today and tomorrow's world.

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Customer Reviews

This timely reissue of the autobiography of the New York Congresswoman and presidential contender, Shirley Chisholm, is a must read from an historical perspective. Originally published in 1970, the title is taken from her 1967 campaign slogan for Congress, "Unbought and Unbossed." Mrs. Chisholm was not an ordinary politician of the day. She was outspoken as the first black woman political leader to crack the gender barrier of Washington politics. Her insight into Congressional politics, as well as descriptions of New York politics, will help the reader understand the roots of the current contentious federal legislation process. Her legacy is that she challenged the status quo for politics and civil rights. I recall clearly that her life touched mine when I was a young woman growing up in New York state in the 1960's. This book is a lesson for young Americans today who are witnessing the acrimonious front page news of the divisiveness present in our

political system. Chisholm was both a genteel woman educated at a young age on the island of Barbados, and a scrappy fighter from the streets of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, NY. She described herself as the "little woman who didn't know how to play the game or when to shut up." Later she writes, "I don't [play by the rules] because I don't choose to. It is not because I don't know what the rules are." Her message of social equality was, and remains, strong as she presented it for future Americans. I would have liked to see more of her "humanness." I wanted more personal disclosures and revelations of emotional moments in her life that showed how she gained the confidence to confront societal norms of the day.

First, the formatting was ATROCIOUS for my kindle and iPhone. Not sure if it was just this version of the book or not. I thought this was a well-crafted memoir about a stellar and abstemious political figure who (gasp) actually wanted to do her job, i.e.- uncompromisingly serve her constituents to the best of her ability without resorting to the dirty, ineffectual, time-wasting tactics of her counterparts. Not only was this an autobiography, it was a critical exposé of the sociopolitical problems that she encountered. "Unbought and Unbossed" didn't limit itself to only issues surrounding a "Black female" in a profession dominated by White males. It demonstrably tackled deeper social, political and economical issues as well: gerrymandering; legality and morality of abortions; paying for an unnecessary war abroad without properly attending to domestic issues; sexism; equal access to education; the seniority system of Congress. Heck, Chisolm's autobio even served as a Government 101 refresher by explaining political processes and terms. By overcoming a web of racial animosities, unwarranted prejudices, and stereotypes based on her sex, Chisolm proved to be instrumental in revealing the damning flaws of American government and society. Furthermore, Chisolm revealed the popular tendency for elected leaders, Republican and Democratic alike, to fail the very people that elected them. It is hopeful that many of the plights described in her book are not as frequent in society as they once were. I emphasize that many strides have been made in the realms of racial and sexual equality, government transparency, and education. But there's much to be done. While many think that the racially subversive ideologies of Chisolm's time are deemed antediluvian, it's simply not true.

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