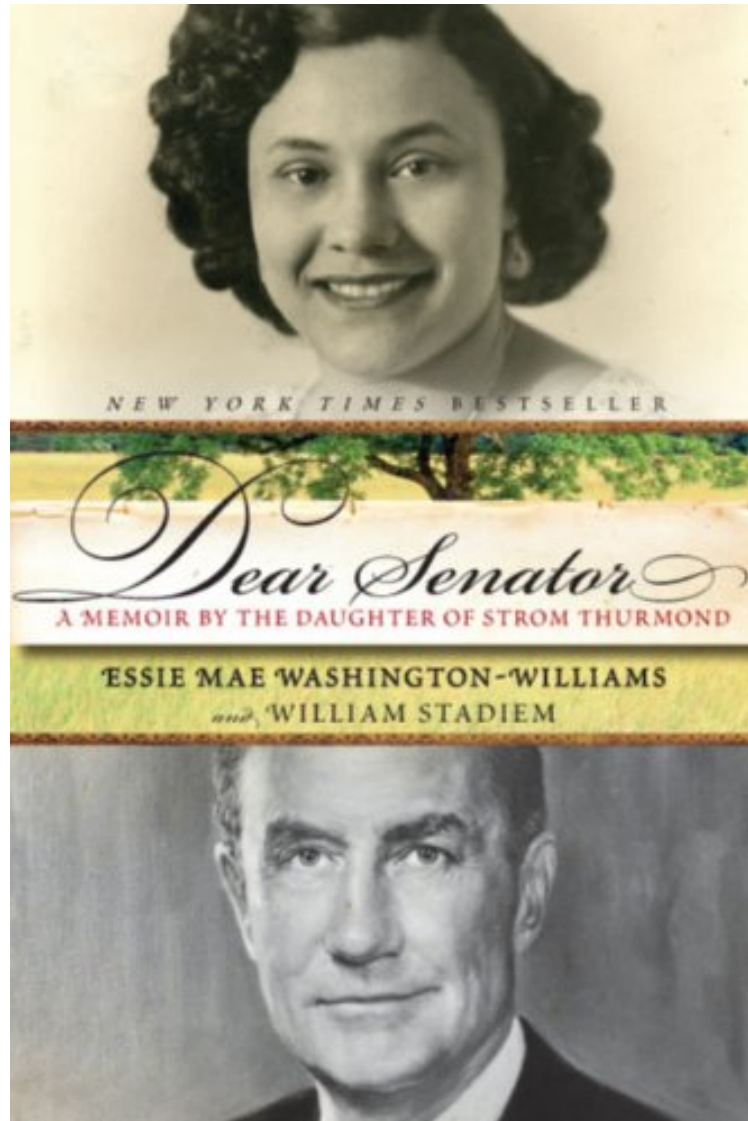


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Dear Senator: A Memoir by the Daughter of Strom Thurmond

Essie Mae Washington-Williams, William Stadiem
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#888611 in Books Washington-Williams, Essie Mae/ Stadiem, William 2006-01-24 2006-01-24Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.94 x .65 x 5.68l, .84 #File Name: 0060761423240 pages | File size: 67.Mb

Essie Mae Washington-Williams, William Stadiem : Dear Senator: A Memoir by the Daughter of Strom Thurmond before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dear Senator: A Memoir by the Daughter of Strom Thurmond:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great book!By JayefromJerseyThis is a book that once you open it , you cannot put it down. It was both educational and interesting read. I remember when Ms. Washington made her statement on television about her birthright . It was shocking news to hear that a major segregationist had a black

daughter. But what is more compelling is her story...I recommend the book highly! It is one to add to your library.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Modern ClassicBy I. KingFascinating historical study of the incredible hypocrisy of the segregationists, and a story of care and love. I originally bought this for my 95-yo mother who couldn't put it down. She loved it and remembered living through those times. This is easily a modern classic. Thank you Essie Mae, may you RIP.7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Very Classy LadyBy C. Ellen ConnallyLots of people have had lots of things to say about Essie May Washington-Williams. Having read a decent amount about Strom Thurmond, I resisted reading this book thinking that I knew the story from the newspaper accounts. However, I started reading the last night and frankly could not put it down. Ms. Washington-Williams puts a whole new perspective on her illustrious father. Whether she should have revealed her existence earlier was a decision that only she could make. After reading her book I feel that Thurmond truly loved her mother. Surely, he could have treated his daughter better, but he was what he was. He provided for her in his own way and did much for her financially. For all those who had comments about what Ms. Washington-Williams should or should not have done, I feel that they are obligated to read her book before they voice an opinion. In my book, she is one classy lady!

Breaking nearly eight decades of silence, Essie Mae WashingtonWilliams comes forward with a story of unique historical magnitude and incredible human drama. Her father, the late Strom Thurmond, was once the nation's leading voice for racial segregation (one of his signature political achievements was his 24hour filibuster against the Civil Rights Act of 1957, done in the name of saving the South from "mongrelization"). Her mother, however, was a black teenager named Carrie Butler who worked as a maid on the Thurmond family's South Carolina plantation. Set against the explosively changing times of the civil rights movement, this poignant memoir recalls how she struggled with the discrepancy between the father she knewone who was financially generous, supportive of her education, even affectionateand the Old Southern politician, railing against greater racial equality, who refused to acknowledge her publicly. From her richly told narrative, as well as the letters she and Thurmond wrote to each other over the years, emerges a nuanced, fascinating portrait of a father who counseled his daughter about her dreams and goals, and supported her in reaching thembut who was unwilling to break with the values of his Dixiecrat constituents. With elegance, dignity, and candor, WashingtonWilliams gives us a chapter of American history as it has never been written beforein a voice that will be heard and cherished by future generations.

From Publishers Weekly"Every girl wants her daddy," says the recently revealed daughter of an affair between 23-year-old Strom Thurmond and the family's 15-year-old black maid, "and I wanted mine." In this surprising and sometimes poignant memoir, Washington-Williams reveals how, when she was 16, she learned that her real father was "a handsome, charming, and rich white lawyer." Washington-Williams was raised by an aunt; her biological mother, who died at 38 in a hospital's poverty ward, rarely appears. But Washington-Williams fashions her a kind of love story: "I knew [Thurmond] loved my mother. I believed he loved me, after his fashion." His fashion, as he lives out his political careergovernor, presidential candidate, senatorinvolves surreptitious visits marked by vacuous advice and extravagant gifts. Much that others might have found bitter is given a rosy spin: as a great-aunt remembers slavery, "The massahs all looked after their children, no matter who birthed them." As Washington-Williams has it, Robert E. Lee was a "great American" and "Strom Thurmond turned out to be right about a lot of things, though segregation wasn't one of them." Washington-Williams asserts, "I am every bit as white as I am black, and it is my full intention to drink the nectar of both goblets," and notes that she has sought to join the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Readers are left to sort out the contradictions for themselves. Photos. (Jan.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.About the AuthorEssie Mae Washington-Williams worked as a teacher in the Los Angeles school district for twenty-seven years. The mother of four children, grandmother of thirteen, and great-grandmother of four, she lives in Los Angeles.William Stadiem was a Harvard JD-MBA and Wall Street lawyer before embarking for Hollywood, where he has written the screenplays for such films as Franco Zeffirelli's Young Toscanini, starring Elizabeth Taylor. He wrote the bestselling Marilyn Monroe Confidential, and Lullaby and Good Night with Vincent Bugliosi. Formerly the Hollywood columnist for Andy Warhol's Interview as well as food critic for Los Angeles magazine, Stadiem lives in a home overlooking the ocean in Santa Monica, California.