I'm not a bot



The coldest winter ever

Renowned rapper Sister Souljah's debut novel brings NYC streets to vivid life. Born Lisa Williamson in '64, she grew up with a passion for history and activism. After attending top US unis, she founded the African Youth Survival Camp & released her hit album 360 Degrees of Power in '92. Sister Souljah recounts her coming-of-age story through Winter Santiaga, a spoilt teenager from Brooklyn's ghettos. She navigates wealth & isolation with reckless abandon, fuelled by her desire to stay on top. But as tragedy strikes her family, she must confront her own destructive tendencies & learn to adapt. Featuring a special collector's edition reader guide, the novel offers insights into Sister Souljah's journey from activism to best-selling authorship. I loved the book because it was shockingly real. Everything that happened in it could have been someone's true story. If young girls are misled by the glamour of the drug game, this is an excellent story to set them straight.I think David is being unfair when he compares this novel to Hitler or Mariah Carey. The book hasn't caused any harm and it's not boring to read. The characters are well-written and you care about what happens to them. That's enough for three stars, especially since I didn't choose to read it myself. If you like The Wire, you'll probably find this familiar. But if you're sheltered and don't know how bad drugs can be, check it out because it shows all sides of the issue.I loved that Sister Souljah was a character in her own book, but it did come across as arrogant that she's also the voice of reason and the angel of the projects. It seems like she's giving advice to characters who don't take it while they flounder around her. Maybe other celebrities should write novels too, dispensing their own practical advice.Somewhat surprisingly, this book was enjoyable and not painful like some romance novels. The scene in the abortion clinic waiting room was effective and depressing.Also, come check out my blog at david-gets-three it-is-for-class! When forced to physically read, even reading 500 pages in 10 days may seem excessive, but for me, it's a respectable pace. I was completely absorbed in the twists and turns, so invested in the outcome that I'd often find myself 50 pages in before realizing it was time to stop reading for the night. Being treated to an author interview at the end of the story added a special touch, as she explained how deeply personal this book was for her, particularly in depicting realistic black girls and filling a gap left by exaggerated portrayals. As I read, I could sense the passion and emotion behind the characters and situations. The writing feels almost like nonfiction, despite being fiction. I stumbled upon this book on the Great American Read list, and I'm glad it caught my attention - I'd highly recommend it and look forward to reading more from Sister Souljah. **TW: rape (graphic description of after affects), drug use, drug dealing, homelessness, explicit sex, teenage pregnancy, abortion, gun violence, misogyny, underage drinking, abuse** This book is a classic within the Black community. It's a pivotal work that many grew up with, often reading it despite its mature themes. Its widespread circulation in the prison system speaks to its impact on the community. The book challenges us to consider the values and traditions we pass down to our children. Winter, the main character, is intentionally unlikable, meant to provoke thought and discussion within the Black community. Her growth as a character is remarkable, but also frustrating at times. Her internal monologue can be infuriating, and her decision-making is often baffling. Despite this, Sister Souljah's writing effectively sparks a conversation about the importance of education, relationships, and survival skills in our community. We're perpetuating a cycle of values that are misguided and hurtful to our children. Are we teaching them to help each other or just feed their own egos? One thing that stands out is how Sister Souljah weaves herself into the book, bringing a voice of reason to Winter's journey. She asks tough questions, like "What is your purpose?" and encourages young Black individuals to become more aware of systemic racism and its impact on society. The book tackles difficult topics like drug use, rape, and homelessness, but it's the author's approach that makes it hard to read at times. Winter gives in to the very things Sister Souljah is fighting against, making the story even more challenging. The question on everyone's mind is whether Winter ever learns her lesson. Despite some plot holes, I found this book to be fast-paced and easy to read. It kept me wondering what Winter would do next. I enjoyed my second read of the book, and I'm excited for the follow-up series that's coming out next year. The author takes real-life situations and makes them relatable, but it's a cautionary tale told from a flawed perspective. ### She took a different approach. The book doesn't contain overt moralising or sentimental sympathy towards institutions. This is according to the author herself, who appears as herself in the book: "Drugs is a government game... A way to rob us of our best black men, our army. Everyone who plays the game loses." She notes that this system leads to slavery and then blames the victims for their situation. The narrator also points out that Winter, a rape victim, was hypersexualised, which made it easy to forget her trauma. The book's portrayal of teenage sexuality and its focus on the bodies of black girls is problematic. However, one scene stood out where Winter, at 16, is confident in her appearance, dressing well and taking care of herself as an expert self-stylist. This shows how societal beauty standards are maintained by patriarchal white supremacy. The novel also critiques the reinforcement of hypermasculinity among young black males, showcasing their behavior and Winter's voice enforcing these stereotypes. However, this is overshadowed by a disturbing section at the end where Midnight, the author's ideal of masculinity, makes homophobic comments. Additionally, Souljah erases queer sexuality and gender, stating that women are 100% emotion, making their opinions irrelevant. This ruined the book for me. Like a memoir, the book felt real and I became invested in its story. It explored street life in NY during the 1990s, discussing fashion, music, and celebrities. I had to remind myself it was fiction, not non-fiction. The protagonist's struggles, experiences, and family shaped her into the person she was. Her flaws made her relatable, and I couldn't fault her for that. This heartbreaking tale resonated with me, as it happens more often than we might assume. April 21, 2009 I initially thought Sister Souljah's "The Coldest Winter Ever" was overrated. The book seemed like a letdown to me, especially considering its reputation in urban literature. I found the characters' naivety, particularly Winter, Ricky Santiaga, and their mother, frustrating. It felt like they were portrayed as not knowing any better, which wasn't realistic. Sister Souljah's constant mentions of herself throughout the book annoyed me even more. The only redeeming quality was Midnight, who showed intelligence and a desire to take control of his life. Midnight, written by Sister Souljah, is a novel that drew me in with its complex and intriguing protagonist, Midnight. His dominant presence and controlled demeanor made him all the more compelling, as did his willingness to take on responsibilities, such as adopting Ricky's children. The mystery surrounding him was captivating, making me want to learn more about this enigmatic character. In contrast, I found the subsequent books in the series to be less engaging, with the author's personal opinions and writing style becoming increasingly erratic and off-putting. However, re-reading Midnight has restored my admiration for the book and its characters. One aspect that sets Midnight apart is its nuanced portrayal of Winter Santiaga, a character who walks the fine line between likability and mean-spiritedness. Her complexities are undeniable, making her both relatable and infuriating at times. What I appreciate most about this novel is its raw realism and unflinching examination of life's challenges. While some plot points may seem implausible or abrupt, they contribute to the overall narrative's emotional impact. Overall, Midnight has aged remarkably well, cementing its status as a classic in the making. Its enduring popularity is a testament to Sister Souljah's skillful storytelling and her ability to craft characters that resonate with readers. The reviewer is skeptical about Sister Souljah's novel "The Coldest Winter Ever". They question why she would write herself into the story as a character and provide an extensive explanation in the appendix. The author compares this approach unfavorably to Ian McEwan's novels, which avoid such explicit analysis. They suggest that Sister Souljah's method comes across as egotistical and dismissive of her readers' intelligence. However, the reviewer concedes that these criticisms are "completely irrelevant" to evaluating the novel itself. The book is described as a fusion of Moll Flanders and The Wire, with a street-smart protagonist navigating a world of crime and family dynamics. The reviewer praises Sister Souljah's intellect and activism outside of her writing, highlighting her background in social justice, hip hop music, and film production. Quana's review of Winter Santiaga: Looking at Quana's take on Winter Santiaga is quite eye-opening. She seems to be disappointed with Winter's selfish decisions, particularly when it comes to her family problems. Winter's mom is portrayed as a figure who makes questionable choices, such as relying on drugs instead of seeking better opportunities for herself and their kids. This situation is genuinely tragic and raises concerns about the siblings' well-being. Reading Sister Souljah's novel feels like being right in Brooklyn as Winter navigates her way through life with no-holds-barred honesty. Her writing is raw and relatable, even when the characters drive you crazy – you'll find yourself rooting for Winter despite her flaws. If you haven't read this book, what are you waiting for? Get ready to yell at Winter's antics, side-eye her parents, and wish for a better life for those siblings of hers. But trust me, you'll devour every moment of it. One reviewer likened Winter to Scarlett O'Hara – a mean girl you can't help but root for. Winter's survival skills are admirable, considering she's the spoiled daughter of a Brooklyn drug kingpin. After her father gets caught and their wealth is seized, Winter takes matters into her own hands, running away from foster care. The rest of the book is about her hooking up with wealthy rappers and dealing players who can support her lavish lifestyle. Although I had hoped Winter would change her ways before hitting rock bottom, "C'est la vie" indeed – That's Life. This book is a must-read for those fascinated by the complexities of hood life and its inhabitants. Sister Souljah's The Coldest Winter Ever continues to resonate with young Black readers, opening minds and offering a poignant portrayal of the calculated post-slavery dehumanization of Black men and the devastating impact of the drug trade on the Black family. Despite its flaws, this novel is an engaging blend of education and entertainment, set against the gritty backdrop of urban life. I initially approached this book with high expectations but found myself disconnected from its themes as an adult reader. Reading it in my teenage years might have provided a different perspective, but revisiting it now has given me insight into why The Coldest Winter Ever sparked such passion when first released. Upon reevaluation, I believe that readers may reassess their views if they re-read the book with fresh eyes. The novel's narrative is fast-paced and drama-filled, presented from the intense perspective of protagonist Winter Santiaga. However, its sheer scale sometimes leads to inconsistencies and unresolved plot points that feel like missed opportunities for development. Winter's story revolves around her life in Brooklyn, navigating the consequences of her father's involvement in the drug trade. One peculiar aspect of the novel is Sister Souljah's decision to insert herself into the narrative. This choice stands out as unusual among authors and has left me seeking answers about its purpose and impact on the story. Ultimately, my experience with The Coldest Winter Ever was a wild ride, but I feel it would resonate more deeply if read through the eyes of someone in their teenage years. Despite my reservations, I'm curious to explore the next installment in Sister Souljah's series, finding myself invested in the world and characters she has created. La historia de Winter es cautivadora y está muy bien escrita, lo que la hace imposible de dejar de leer. A pesar de ser una chica muy inteligente, Winter no parece entender o querer entender el daño que causa con sus acciones. La autora, Sister Souljah, ha escrito una novela que te obliga a seguir leyendo página tras página, sin importarte la falta de sueño. El personaje de Winter es complejo, ya que proviene de una familia involucrada en el narcotráfico y su padre es el "rey" de este mundo. Su madre tuvo a Winter cuando tenía solo 14 años, lo que establece el escenario para una historia sobre la ciclo de maldiciones generacionales y la búsqueda de identidad de una joven chica. A medida que avanza la historia, se revela cómo la corrupción y el narcotráfico pueden generar un círculo vicioso de desesperación en las comunidades negras y latinas. Winter es un personaje que no siempre es fácil de querer, ya que traiciona a aquellos que genuinamente intentan ayudarla, lo que se debe en parte a la educación que recibió de sus padres. A pesar de su juventud, Winter muestra una lealtad ciega hacia su familia y está dispuesta a hacer cualquier cosa para protegerlos. La novela es un viaje emocional que explora temas como la materialidad, la identidad y la búsqueda de un futuro mejor. A través de la historia de Winter, se nos recuerda que la verdadera felicidad y el éxito no se pueden lograr a través de medios fáciles o dañinos, sino que requieren esfuerzo y dedicación. Esta novela es definitivamente una lectura obligatoria para aquellos que buscan una historia profunda y emocionalmente cargada. It's unfortunate that society often presents itself as heartless, shallow, and cutthroat. However, it's essential to recognize that a strong foundation is crucial for success. As you strive to achieve your goals, be prepared to face challenges and setbacks, even if they come at an unexpected time. I had mixed feelings about this book. On one hand, the author's portrayal of Winter Santiago was thought-provoking, as it highlighted the harsh realities faced by women in difficult situations. Nevertheless, I found Winter herself to be a flawed character, making questionable decisions that led her down a path of self-destruction. The author's intention may have been to depict Winter as a cautionary tale, but the narrative often felt ambiguous, leaving readers with mixed impressions of her character. The book's tone was sometimes unclear, and I couldn't shake the feeling that Winter's mistakes were glossed over rather than thoroughly explored. Despite this, some readers found the book engaging, particularly those familiar with the author's works. It's clear that Souljah has a talent for crafting compelling stories about the struggles faced by marginalized communities in urban environments. Winter Santiaga, the protagonist from Sister Souljah's million copy New York Times bestseller The Coldest Winter Ever, is back with a vengeance. The sequel picks up where the first book left off, with Winter determined to pay back her enemies and rebuild her father's empire. However, she's not the only one seeking revenge - her young business partner Simone has set her sights on Winter. As the two women engage in a game of cat and mouse, Winter finds herself facing numerous challenges and dangers. Despite the odds against her, Winter remains fearless, believing that hell is just another name for the Brooklyn hood she grew up in. With its raw, shocking, and soulful tone, this sequel promises to be an unforgettable adventure that will leave fans on the edge of their seats.

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