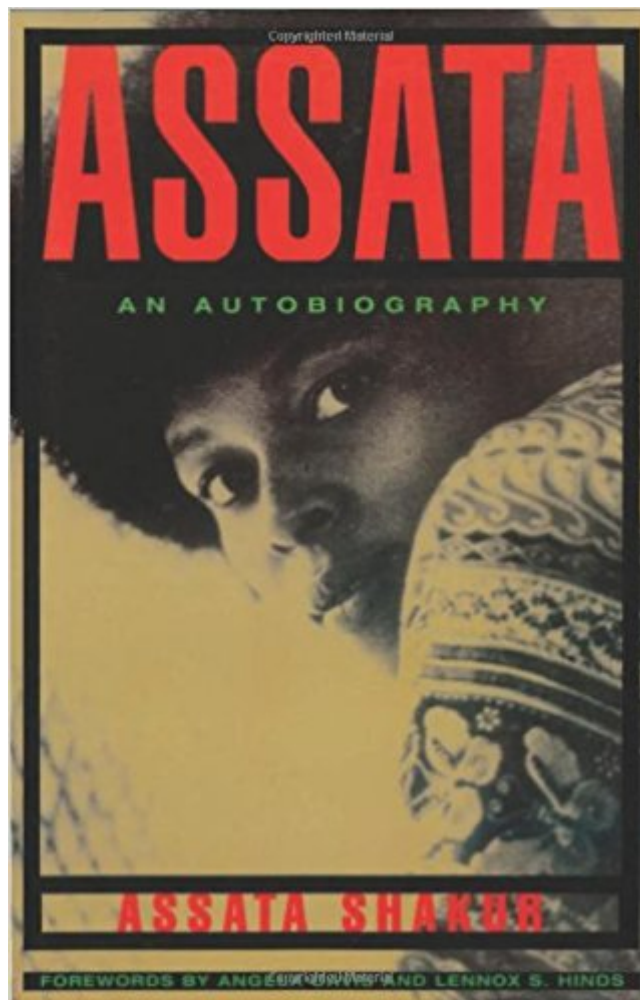


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# Assata: An Autobiography



## Synopsis

On May 2, 1973, Black Panther Assata Shakur (aka JoAnne Chesimard) lay in a hospital, close to death, handcuffed to her bed, while local, state, and federal police attempted to question her about the shootout on the New Jersey Turnpike that had claimed the life of a white state trooper. Long a target of J. Edgar Hoover's campaign to defame, infiltrate, and criminalize Black nationalist organizations and their leaders, Shakur was incarcerated for four years prior to her conviction on flimsy evidence in 1977 as an accomplice to murder. This intensely personal and political autobiography belies the fearsome image of JoAnne Chesimard long projected by the media and the state. With wit and candor, Assata Shakur recounts the experiences that led her to a life of activism and portrays the strengths, weaknesses, and eventual demise of Black and White revolutionary groups at the hand of government officials. The result is a signal contribution to the literature about growing up Black in America that has already taken its place alongside *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* and the works of Maya Angelou. Two years after her conviction, Assata Shakur escaped from prison. She was given political asylum by Cuba, where she now resides.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This black activist's memoir is like a freeze frame of the late 1960s and early 1970s. Though the polemical rhetoric is dated, the book is an otherwise compelling tale of the impact of white racism on a sensitive and powerful young black woman. Born Joanne Chesimard, she took an African name to

confirm her commitment to black liberation, joined militant organizations, and was ultimately convicted of the murder of a New Jersey highway patrol officer in 1977. Her descriptions of life in prison and the vagaries of the court system are especially wrenching. Living now in Cuba as an escaped felon, she continues her utopian plea for revolution. Recommended for large libraries and specialists. Anthony O. Edmonds, Ball State Univ., Muncie, Ind. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"A deftly written book . . . A spellbinding tale." "The New York Times Book Review" A sober, restrained, but forceful recollection. . . . A must book for those interested in the "revolutionaries" of the 1960s" "Choice" A compelling tale of the impact of white racism on a sensitive and powerful young black woman." "Library Journal

A poignant exploration of Assata Shakur's journey from girlhood through adulthood, serving also as a chronicle of the Black Power Movement and the evolution of U.S. race relations since the Civil Rights era. In many ways, the book complements "The Autobiography of Malcolm X," offering a black female perspective on American society of the 20th century. As you would find with most any memoir, there are silences and gaps that seem to beg for more discussion and illumination. However, as a thoughtful political commentary on the shortcomings of the American criminal justice system, capitalism, imperialism, and the society's inability/unwillingness to deal forthrightly with ongoing racial inequities, this book is highly recommended.

Well worth the read! Assata's story is a part of history that the American government does not want told, but is a clear picture of how the government has terrorized its own citizens for wanting better and taking action to make changes.

This book was considered used. It arrived in excellent shape. It doesn't even look like it has been cracked open. There are no markings and no crease on its spine. Excellent condition!! I can't wait to start reading. I'm halfway through the book and it is riveting. This is a must read for anyone who wants to know the real story of Assata.

This book was so life changing as an African American female born and raised in NJ in the 90s. Even in 2015, the events surrounding Assata's conviction are familiar today. Assata's words are relatable to any sensible and logical thinking human being, regardless of race or sex. She was part

of a movement larger than her life and I respect her for that. She influenced one of my recent decisions as a citizen of this country. I am grateful for her story and the mini stories of others whom she encountered during the struggle.

This book was one of the required reading materials for the History class I attended this semester. In my opinion the book was amazing. I loved the way she writes about her life in the South and in New York. She experiences attending both integrated and segregated schools. She writes about how she and other Black children were raised with the image of beauty that was set by the White man. Shakur writes "We had become completely brainwashed, and we didn't even know it. We accepted white value systems and white standards of beauty and, at times, we accepted the white man's view of ourselves. We had never been exposed to any other point of view or any other standard of beauty" (p. 31). Not everyone who reads this book will enjoy it because she does express her political views and how those beliefs led her to the situation that she is currently in. When reading this book, I continuously reflected on the present. I tried to make connections and while I believe that yes society has change, I also believe that racism is still alive and well. Overall, I would recommend this book and I have already given my copy to my mother.

Exceptionally well versed biography of a Black Revolutionary. Extremely important read in this era of Trump politic

Assata Shakur's story is one that depicts struggle while simultaneously defying the odds. It is introspective, heartfelt, frustrating and insightful. For those searching for a story that details the revolutionary's escape or her numerous trials in a gossiping form will be certain to have wasted their time. Instead, *Assata: An Autobiography* gives you the woman's experience in her most honest of voices that is raw and powerful. Readers will also be schooled as she dedicates a few of her chapters to teaching the misinformed of America about it's false history that we are led to believe as we go through the educational system. This book without question is a great read and those who are truly interested in hearing Assata's personal accounts first hand will find this liberating as well as refreshing.

This is a beautiful and powerful book written by a truly inspiring activist. "Assata" is the story of a young African American girl as she grows from willful, precocious child, to a dedicated activist in the Black Liberation movement. I loved this book. Shakur's love of Black people, Black culture, and

dedication to freedom awakened those same commitments in me as well. A must read. I put it off for too long, don't make that mistake.

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