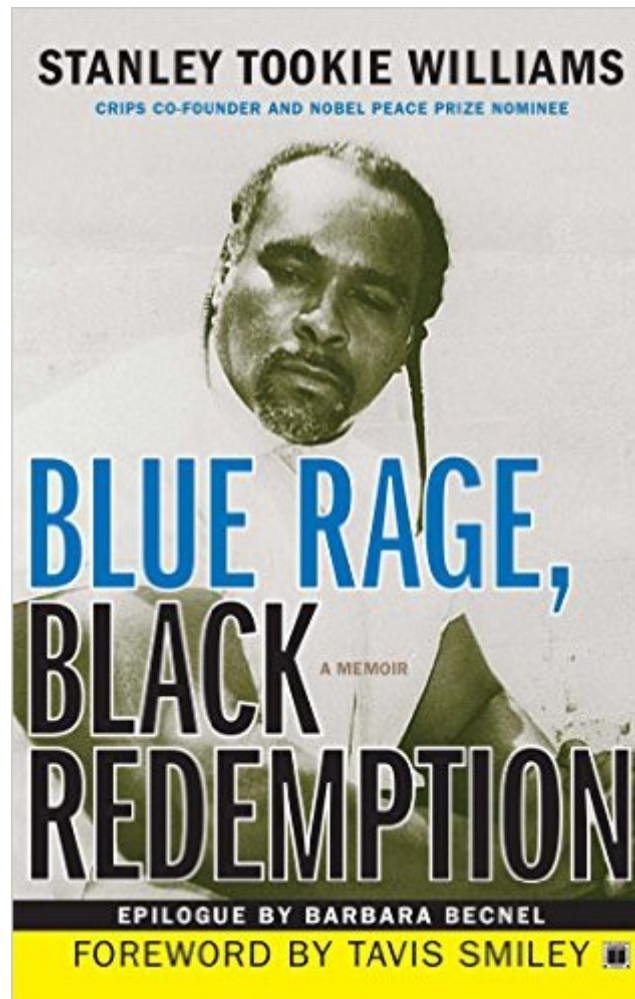


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Blue Rage, Black Redemption: A Memoir



Synopsis

A gripping tale of personal revolution by a man who went from Crips co-founder to Nobel Peace Prize nominee, author, and antigang activist. When his L.A. neighborhood was threatened by gangbangers, Stanley Tookie Williams and a friend formed the Crips, but what began as protection became worse than the original gangs. From deadly street fights with their rivals to drive-by shootings and stealing cars, the Crips' influence -- and Tookie's reputation -- began to spread across L.A. Soon he was regularly under police surveillance, and, as a result, was arrested often, though always released because the charges did not stick. But in 1981, Tookie was convicted of murdering four people and was sent to death row at San Quentin in Marin County, California. Tookie maintained his innocence and began to work in earnest to prevent others from following his path. Whether he was creating nationwide peace protocols, discouraging adolescents from joining gangs, or writing books, Tookie worked tirelessly for the rest of his life to end gang violence. Even after his death, his legacy continues, supported by such individuals as Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Snoop Dogg, Jesse Jackson, and many more. This posthumous edition of *Blue Rage, Black Redemption* features a foreword by Tavis Smiley and an epilogue by Barbara Becnel, which details not only the influence of Tookie's activism but also her eyewitness account of his December 2005 execution, and the inquest that followed. By turns frightening and enlightening, *Blue Rage, Black Redemption* is a testament to the strength of the human spirit and an invaluable lesson in how rage can be turned into redemption.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Well I bought it because I thought it would be interesting, and I read it because I was really bored. Prior to reading this book, I knew next to nothing about Stanley "Tookie" Williams, beyond what I read on the Wikipedia page that lead me to the book in the first place. Overall the book is an interesting read. I never felt bored whilst reading it, and I was always compelled to continue reading the book up until the end. There are, in my opinion, a few problems with it. One is the writing style isn't particularly compelling, not bad, and it is certainly competent, it just doesn't demonstrate the prowess I've seen in some other writers. With that said I also feel the need to mention that Mr. Tookie does something he himself bemoans in that he will occasionally use unnecessarily sesquipedalian or recondite verbiage seemingly at random (see what I did there?). Occasionally the words, which are occasionally in foreign languages such as Latin or Swahili, will even have their more common meaning or a translation immediately following. Sometimes this does serve a purpose, but more often than not it seems unnecessary. As for the actual story, it is interesting. Pacing at times seems like it may have been able to have been done better, and often times many characters are mentioned as if they had always been there with little to no background information or time spent identifying their significance to the reader. It can be quite jarring. It is the story of the foundation of the Crips, but it does focus more on the personal life of Mr. Williams than the significantly more famous gang that he founded. I must say that I personally was disappointed by this. There is very little on the co-founder of the Crips, beyond the seminal moment of the gang and his death.

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