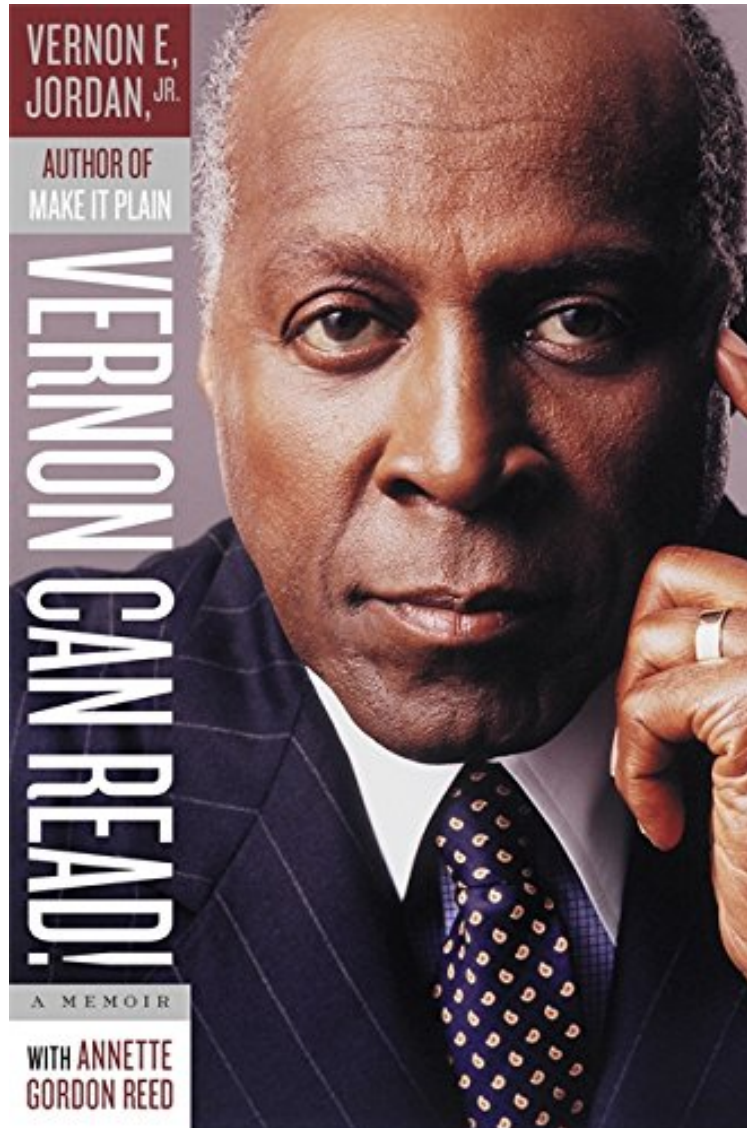


[Get free] Vernon Can Read!: A Memoir

Vernon Can Read!: A Memoir

Vernon Jordan

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Vernon Jordan : Vernon Can Read!: A Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Vernon Can Read!: A Memoir:

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review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerExcellent read! Very well written memoir about a journey taken with clear intention on improving human behavior.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great portrait of struggle to be accepted as a man ...By Norman E. MoonEye opening! A great portrait of struggle to be accepted as a man and intellectual!

As a young college student in Atlanta, Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. had a summer job driving a white banker around town. During the mans post-luncheon siestas, Jordan passed the time reading books, a fact that astounded his boss. Vernon can read! the man exclaimed to his relatives. Nearly fifty years later, Vernon Jordan, now a senior executive at Lazard Freres, long-time civil rights leader, adviser and close friend to presidents and business leaders and one of the most charismatic figures in America, has written an unforgettable book about his life and times.

From Publishers WeeklyWhile Jordan's autobiography garnered interest from the moment its publication was announced, its ultimate form surprises. Disappointment awaits those expecting Clinton/ Lewinsky dirt, since the book "effectively ends in the 1980s. All that has happened to me since then is too close to be considered true memories," Jordan writes. But his narrative mission here is not recent political scandal. Jordan means to "bridge the gap" between the years African-Americans were forced to move to the back of the bus and the time when "a young black girl [Vernon's daughter Vickee] could be so confident in her humanity that she found it unfathomable that anyone could try and take it away from her." The bridge, of course, is Jordan himself, and he tells his success story with a concentration and devotion that gives it all the fervor and logic of a good long speech. While readers are treated to some particulars of Jordan's youth (waiting tables for his mother's catering business, attending segregated Atlanta schools in the 1940s and early '50s and then the predominantly white DePauw University) and the trajectory of his early career as a field director for the NAACP, executive director of the United Negro College Fund and president of the National Urban League), there are few more personal revelations. With its lack of extraneous detail and its studious avoidance of private thoughts, this is less a traditional memoir than an extended exposition of an impressive CV. Even so, it should remind people of this chapter in American history and Jordan's crucial role in it. (Oct. 22)Forecast: With Jordan's high profile, this is an automatic big seller. If it's marketed correctly, it should have a wide appeal, too anyone interested in the history of the civil rights movement will appreciate this detailed account of the people and organizations that helped transform a segregated nation.Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalMany will remember Jordan as a close friend of former president Bill Clinton who tried to help intern Monica Lewinsky get a job after she left the White House. Few will note that he was the Georgia field director of the NAACP at the time civil rights leader Medgar Evers was head of the same organization in Mississippi. Jordan also served as executive director of the United Negro College Fund and eventually became president of the National Urban League after the death of Whitney Young. He attended DePaul University in the early days of the Civil Rights movement and worked to secure the rights of blacks in Georgia. This is a standard, run-of-the-mill autobiography until Jordan reveals the assassination attempt on his life and his decision to leave the Urban League to join a private law firm. The author's reading is flat at points, and his Southern accent and mispronunciations are grating; one wishes that an actor had been employed to provide some emotion and continuity to the narration. Recommended for libraries with African American history, biography, and American studies collections. Danna Bell-Russel, Library of Congress Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistJordan, a major U.S. civil rights figure, looks back with satisfaction at all the important threads that have made up his fascinating life and weaves them into an engrossing tapestry. To explain the title of his book, Jordan describes a significant incident that occurred when he served as the chauffeur for a member of Atlanta's white elite, who was surprised to come across a black man who could read. The greatest formative influence of Jordan's life was his mother, and he pays her great respect in the absorbing pages of this memoir (written with the help of coauthor Gordon-Reed). The philosophy she impressed upon him was to "make the most of what you have at the moment, do the best you can when it counts, and hope and expect good outcomes from your efforts." This sentiment served as the impetus behind the steps he took in his distinguished career, from entering the law to working with the NAACP, the United Negro College Fund, and the Urban League. No one can gain a comprehensive view of the movement for equal rights in this country and the differences the struggle has made in the lives of blacks without paying attention to what Jordan says and stands for. Brad HooperCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved