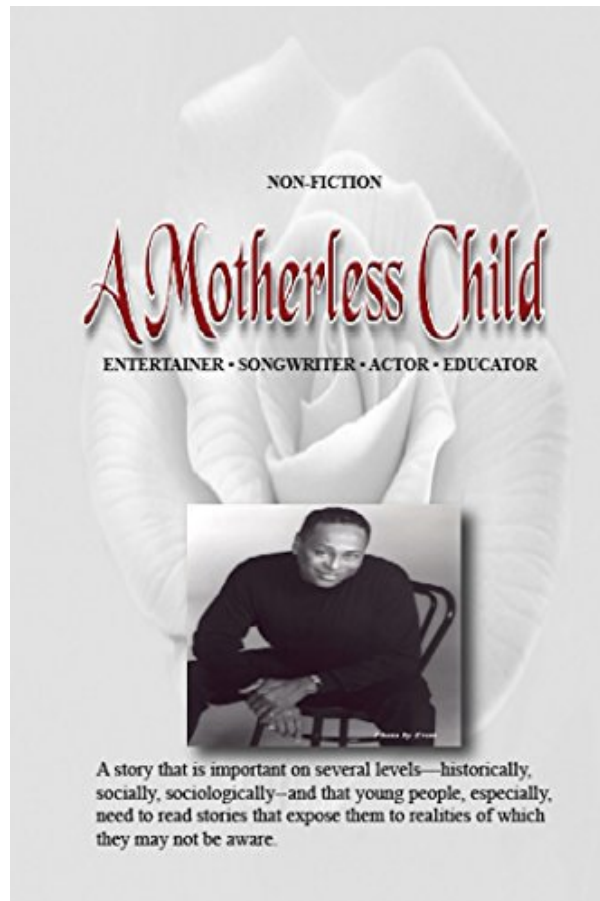


A MOTHERLESS CHILD BY SHELLEY FISHER



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NON-FICTION

A Motherless Child

ENTERTAINER • SONGWRITER • ACTOR • EDUCATOR



A story that is important on several levels—historically, socially, sociologically—and that young people, especially, need to read stories that expose them to realities of which they may not be aware.

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A MOTHERLESS CHILD is the life story of Entertainer, Songwriter, Actor and Educator Shelley Fisher from a two-month old baby boy in racially segregated 1942 Mississippi, whose mother died as the result of untreated complications of childbirth. Raised by an abusive pseudo religious Grandmother until she chases him through the cornfield with a shotgun.

After moving to the West side of Chicago at age twelve and facing a neighborhood bully he becomes totally immersed in some dangerous street gang activity. To escape the streets he joins the Air Force at age sixteen by changing the year on his birth certificate with the help of a community social worker. Shelley returned to Chicago after just four months with an Honorable Discharge to join a traveling magazine crew supervised by one of The Tuskegee Airmen selling periodicals to celebrities such as Chuck Berry, The Isley Brothers and Jazz great Sarah Vaughn.

Back in Chicago he and two other low level criminals rob an illegal numbers operation and a high stakes poker game after which he ends his criminal life and enrolls at the Crane Jr. College to be mentored by Music Teacher James L. Mack and discovered his musical talent. There he would meet and work with some of the finest musicians of the era including several who were part of Chess-Cadet Records. Fisher paid his dues in the 'Windy City' sharing billings with Eartha Kitt and Stevie Wonder and co-founded the Aries Record Company. He chooses to perform in Oscar Brown, Jr.'s musical production Summer In The City over a secure career at Johnson Publishing Company before going to Hollywood to pursue his dream.

He would find success in Hollywood landing a co-starring role in a motion picture, playing piano and singing in some of the finest lounges like The Sportsmen's Lodge, having his music recorded by Lou Rawls and on Motown Records. Then he would become romantically involved with the wealthy widow of a famed songwriter and work to create a multi-million-dollar Audio-Visual center, but cocaine and betrayal leads to an almost fatal encounter with the LAPD. Following an emotional breakdown Shelley realizes that unless he totally abandons his playground and playmates in Los Angeles he will not live to realize his dream and returns to Chicago to successfully teach the Blues as a cultural heritage in two public schools located in the infamous Cabrini-Green neighborhood.

Fisher shares his personal involvement with Maurice White and members of the original group Earth, Wind & Fire in its formative period. He shares his experiences after leaving Hollywood to work and reside abroad for twenty-three years in Canada, Japan and Europe composing and performing on-camera his original music the Cannes Film Festival Golden Palms Award winning film Calliope.

In 2000 he returned to the United States and fulfill a dream to perform in Las Vegas at the MGM-Mirage Resort for three consecutive years. But in 2004, while en route to the Las Vegas airport, Shelley suffered a hit and run automobile accident and died twice in one day. Left with a severely injured left forearm, he loses the ability to play the piano but after a long recovery period and eight surgeries he reinvents himself as a stand-up vocalist, performing on cruise ships and major concerts in Japan.

In 2013 Fisher was inducted into The HistoryMakers an organization that documents the contributions of

prominent African-Americans from President Barack Hussein Obama to Poet Laureate Maya Angelou. He has received Letters of Commendation from United States Senators (Harry Reid and John Ensign) of both political parties for his contributions to the Las Vegas community. His is a story of overcoming life's obstacles to make contributions to the young and to the older members of society. Shelley Fisher remains active in the Entertainment Industry and as a motivational-inspirational speaker.

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For all the 'IN' Crowd and Those that Want to be in the Know :)

By ra'sdaughter

I was honored to get the hard copy of this book from a book party and it was exciting beyond belief. You will not put this one down! This author has such insight into the world of music of the 60's, 70's, 80's and even now. This is more than an autobiographical journey, it is the journey of a time of a people and the things we need to do as a society to keep the proverbial beat going; to keep uplifting a society by exposure to music.. the arts in general. He shows us how gifts can change a life with proper instruction and tutelage. There are some highly amusing scenes as a young man, Motherless, yet comes of age all the time growing and thriving. It's one you can't put down. It is recommended reading for all, but doubly so for us Baby Boomers, and those who relate to the African American experience. A great Christmas gift!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Atta Boy, Shelly

By Amazon Customer

What a wonderful story,How one man beat the odds with his own self-acquired worldly knowledge combined with, of course, the street smarts so readily available in those days. My compliments to Shelly, indeed a true gentleman!

Dan M.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Four Stars

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Worthwhile read.

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