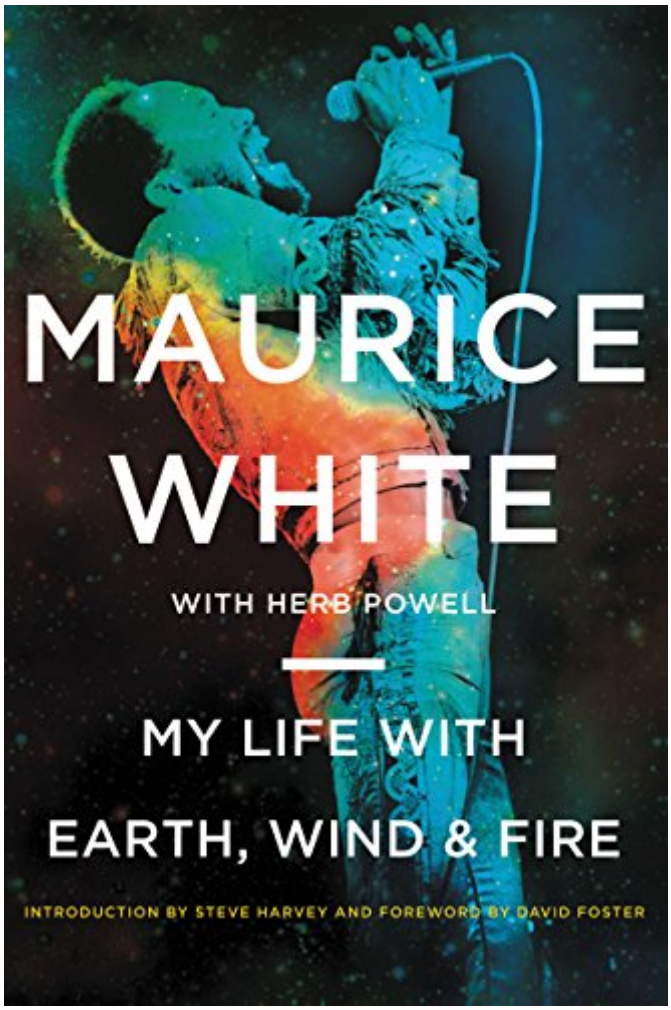
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My Life With Earth, Wind & Fire



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Synopsis

Foreword by Steve Harvey and afterword by David FosterThe Grammy-winning founder of the legendary pop/R&B/soul/funk/disco group tells his story and charts the rise of his legendary band in this sincere memoir that captures the heart and soul of an artist whose groundbreaking sound continues to influence music today.With its dynamic horns, contrasting vocals, and vivid stage shows, Earth, Wind & Fire was one of the most popular acts of the late twentieth centuryÃ¢â ¬â •the band Ã¢â ¬Å“that changed the sound of black popÃ¢â ¬Â• (Rolling Stone)Ã¢â ¬â •and its music continues to inspire modern artists including Usher, Jay-Z, Cee-Lo Green, and Outkast. At last, the bandÃ¢â ¬â„¢s founder, Maurice White, shares the story of his success.Now in his seventies, White reflects on the great blessings music has brought to his life and the struggles heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s endured: his mother leaving him behind in Memphis when he was four; learning to play the drums with Booker T. Jones; moving to Chicago at eighteen and later Los Angeles after leaving the Ramsey Lewis Trio; forming EWF, only to have the original group fall apart; working with Barbra Streisand and Neil Diamond; his diagnosis of ParkinsonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s; and his final public performance with the group at the 2006 Grammy Awards. Through it all, White credits his faith for his amazing success and guidance in overcoming his many challenges.Keep Your Head to the Sky is an intimate, moving, and beautiful memoir from a man whose creativity and determination carried him to great success, and whose faith enabled him to savor every moment.

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Customer Reviews

I have always loved EW&F it was a part of my childhood, my mother always played their records and when I became an adult I have collected all of their songs. Maurice White had always been a mystery to me, but for some reason I felt if I could ever meet him he would instill in me so many spiritual truths that I had questions about.This book was beautifully written and I binge read it for 2 days straight. After reading this, I felt like I really got to know the real Maurice White. He was a positively beautiful man inside and out.This book is a must read for all diehard EW&F fans. You really feel like you are on the sidelines looking into Maurice White and EW&F's life. You really see and feel all the ups and downs and victories of the band. You even feel all the emotions of Maurice White as he created his "baby" EW&F. I loved this book. I feel inspired by it . I read this book for a reason, it came to me at the right time in my life. I will forever miss Maurice White, he was someone I wish I could've had deep conversations with, he always kept his head to the sky.

I was on board with EWF from their inception and thought that I knew the whole encyclopedia on the band. You can't be a Earth,Wind and Fire fan and not know that they..Maurice were in tune with a higher spiritual plane and was always bringing you along for the ride. I have nearly all LPs in original wax and the last as CD's. The book put a lot of songs into perfect perspective. As a fan I'm glad I have this last album to close out my collection. Phil, Verdine and Al are still out there affirming fans and creating new ones. To all EWF fans, continue to live in the beautiful spirit and love of the music. The book is essential reading.

What a man and what a surprising story. A tragic start being left alone by his mom at 5....then goes on to touch millions with his love and his incredible acumen for creating the most amazing music ever. Having first discovered EWF in the early 70s then falling in love with them with All n All and beyond, it was wonderful hearing the backstory in Maurice's own words. How a man with such a tough beginning could "turn it into something good" in such a huge way is inspiring. I believe it was his severe life challenges as a little boy that drove him in such a magnificent way to pouring his

heart and soul into music. He was relentless and the product proves it. It wasn't so much Maurice the musician as it was Maurice the passionate orchestrator/the uber-focused band leader, that made EWF such a force from 1975-83 (often to his great personal sacrifice/burden). Their greatness hit the top-40 standards for a few years, but their message lives on far beyond that fickle metric. Indeed FACES which had poor commercial/critical success, I personally find EXTRAORDINARY -- as do many EWF fans. Anyway, this was a pleasure to read, the detailed personal account from a very private man; it was loving of him to share with us, the people who were/are so profoundly touched by his message and his music. I hope ultimately that he fully understood the profound effect of the love he channeled to so many, for that I hope he has an eternal reward. Miss you Reece, wish I knew you as a friend.

This book is the TRUTH! This was/is the perfect inspiration/manual for someone with a vision that wishes to see that vision come to fruition. It is not your typical autobiography. I feel it is great, just GREAT. FANTASTIC!!!However, one thing I find EXTREMELY upsetting is that though the book is being promoted by his brother Verdine White...Verdine seems to never mention the ACTUAL writer by name (HERB POWELL) during televised interviews. In life, there are moments that we can never get back...like the opportunity to give someone else a chance to be a "Shining Star".Maurice had a specific dream that HERB POWELL would be the author to write his autobiography. Guided by that dream, Maurice asked HERB POWELL (someone who had never written a book prior) to compose his first and only autobiography.HERB POWELL hit a home run (in my humble opinion)!So, if you were to enjoy this book as I have, please remember that HERB POWELL is the author...not Verdine White.It is unfortunate that Maurice White had to die before releasing this fantastic work became a priority. At the same time, I feel so fortunate that something so powerful and insightful has found its way from the ether to the tangible.I do not say this lightly...Next to 'Faces', this is my 2nd favorite EWF album...PERIOD.

This book left me no longer wondering why and how EWF became the spiritual guide to my life...back in 1976, a cousin who was a DJ, gave me his extra copy of Gratitude and life for a 14 year old kid would never be the same. I was so inspired by the music that I took a job in the dead of winter in Brooklyn, NY, pumping gas for 3 months to purchase The Need of Love, Last Days & Time, Head to the Sky and That's the Way of the World albums. It was worth every freezing cold moment. I truly thank God, for giving us Maurice White in this lifetime. He should be honored in every way imaginable. This book was his testimony...his bible so to speak. It spoke to me. I would

never be the same after listening to EWF the very first time, but I will never be the same after reading his story. Thank you, Maurice...you are truly the inspiration and the guiding force. May you rest in everlasting peace.

This book put together a lot of the puzzle pieces about EWF and actually told me everything about Maurice White's childhood and early career which I knew nothing about. The book gives a very personal insight into his life and the world going on around him as well as insights into the music business. I highly recommend this book especially for lifetime EWF fans like myself.

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