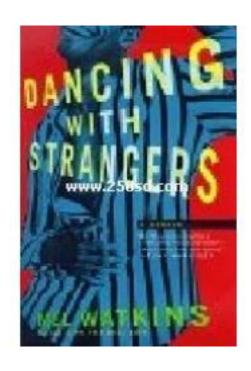
Dancing with Strangers: A Memoir



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著者:

出版者:

出版时间:

装帧:

isbn:9780684808642

From Library Journal Watkins (On the Real Side, LJ 2/1/94), a former New York Times editor, shares here what his life was like growing up in Youngstown, Ohio, in the Fifties and Sixties in the midst of segregation and racism. He begins his story as the youngest member of a dysfunctional family, with an abusive, out-of-control father. Leaving no stone unturned, Watkins speaks of his brother's drug addiction; his grandparents' interracial relationship, which couldn't result in marriage; his passion for basketball; and his college years. Telling of his attachment to his grandmother and how he benefited from her wisdom, he reveals how devastated he was when she died. He gives an extended view of his college life: his friends, sexual escapades, extracurricular activities, and studies, and then he graduates, thereby ending his tale. Is there life after college? If so, Watkins doesn't fill in that missing piece of the

puzzle. Considering that he is nearly 60 years old, it would have been more interesting to learn of his career moves and midlife crises. Without these components, this story is incomplete and less than appealing. Not a necessary purchase.? Ann Burns, "Library Journal" Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. The New York Times Book Review, Judith Dunford If he were any other color, he might have been able to end his portrait of an artist as a young man with the determination to become a writer (as he did) and forge in the smithy of his soul the uncreated conscience of his race, instead of forging his own conscience about race.... Black people, he concludes, come in as many personal, intellectual, social and chromatic variations as any other group.... That such a modest, obvious-on-the-face-of-it idea should be in any sense a big deal says something about our country--still. See all Editorial Reviews

our countrystill. See all Editorial Reviews
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