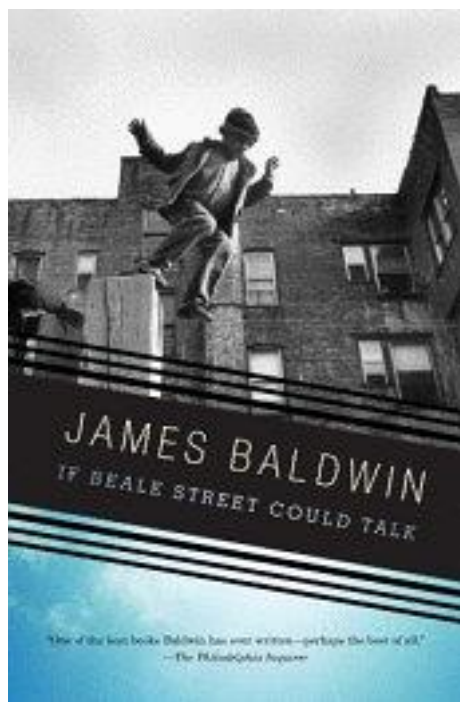


# If Beale Street Could Talk



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著者:James Baldwin

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Like the blues -- sweet, sad, and full of truth -- this masterly work of fiction rocks us with powerful emotions. In it are anger and pain, but above all, love -- affirmative love of a woman for her man, the sustaining love of a black family. Fonny, a talented young artist, finds himself unjustly arrested and locked in New York's infamous toms. But his girlfriend, Tish, is determined to free him, and to have his baby, in this starkly realistic tale... a powerful indictment of American concepts of justice and punishment in our time. (From Goodreads)

作者介绍:

James Arthur Baldwin was an American novelist, essayist, playwright, poet, and social critic.

James Baldwin offered a vital literary voice during the era of civil rights activism in the 1950s and '60s. He was the eldest of nine children; his stepfather was a minister. At age 14, Baldwin became a preacher at the small Fireside Pentecostal Church in Harlem. In the early 1940s, he transferred his faith from religion to literature. Critics, however, note the impassioned cadences of Black churches are still evident in his writing. *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, his first novel, is a partially autobiographical account of his youth. His essay collections *Notes of a Native Son*, *Nobody Knows My Name*, and *The Fire Next Time* were influential in informing a large white audience.

From 1948, Baldwin made his home primarily in the south of France, but often returned to the USA to lecture or teach. In 1957, he began spending half of each year in New York City. His novels include *Giovanni's Room*, about a white American expatriate who must come to terms with his homosexuality, and *Another Country*, about racial and gay sexual tensions among New York intellectuals. His inclusion of gay themes resulted in a lot of savage criticism from the Black community. Eldridge Cleaver, of the Black Panthers, stated the Baldwin's writing displayed an "agonizing, total hatred of blacks." Baldwin's play, *Blues for Mister Charlie*, was produced in 1964. *Going to Meet the Man* and *Tell Me How Long the Train's Been Gone* provided powerful descriptions of American racism. As an openly gay man, he became increasingly outspoken in condemning discrimination against lesbian and gay people.

On November 30, 1987 Baldwin died from stomach cancer in Saint-Paul-de-Vence, France. He was buried at the Ferncliff Cemetery in Hartsdale, near New York City.

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## 评论

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## 书评

杜先菊 拿到《如果比尔街可以作证》（If Beale Street Could Talk）时，我并不知道詹姆斯·鲍德温是谁，也没有读过他的小说。看他的照片，瘦骨嶙峋，也没有马上产生似曾相识的亲切感。然而，打开小说，第一句，就觉得亲近。是一个女孩子蒂希的自述。我平时接触的黑人并不多...

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一位作家应该用自己的作品去取悦读者，从而获得更多的声誉和利益，还是应该让自己的作品成为表达自己内心观点的途径，从而足以影响感化到他人，乃至整个社会。如果把问题放到现在，此时此地，我总觉得任何一种选择都不会妨碍这位作家成功与否，毕竟需求决定供给，喜好决定市场...

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提起战后美国的黑人民权运动，我们马上会想起马丁·路德·金那篇振聋发聩、闻名天下的演说《我有一个梦》，这篇呼吁以和平的方式消灭种族歧视、让黑人享有平等公正的民主权利的檄文，可以说是一面引导黑人走向自由之途的光辉旗帜。差不多在相同的时代背景下，詹姆斯·鲍德温的...

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我累了，我开始想，说不定所有发生的事情都有道理。是这样的：如果没有道理，这样的事情怎么会发生？不过这个想法实在很可怕。有个这样的想法，肯定是因为遇到麻烦了——而且是遇到了没有道理的麻烦。我知道他怎么想，但是我不能让我自己也那样想——现在不行，看着他的时候...

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本书作者詹姆斯·鲍德温，美国黑人，著名作家，社会活动家。他对美国的种族歧视极度失望，为此还长期移居法国，十一年后回到美国，参与了黑人解放运动。这本作品大概在一九五三年左右，鲍德温将近三十岁，正是他的创作鼎盛期，创作了《另一个国度》、《土生子礼记》、《假如比尔...

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2019年奥斯卡颁奖典礼上，女演员雷吉娜·金因为在电影《假若比尔街能说话》中扮演的母亲形象，拿下了含金量极高的最佳女配角。影片中，女主角的母亲是个沉着冷静却让人动容的角色，她为了女儿的幸福不惜远赴千里之外，在近乎为零的希望面前迟迟不肯松手，只记得自己是个母亲。 ...

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