

INSPIRATIONAL MEMOIRS

Abramovic, Marina. Walk through Walls: A Memoir. Marina recounts her journey from a dark childhood in postwar Yugoslavia to her life as a famous performance artist. Through her efforts to overcome the limits of pain, she was able to discover her own mode of authentic, distinctive expression. (709.2 Abramovic, Martina)

Angelou, Maya. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. Sent to live with her grandma in a small town in Arkansas, Maya Angelou recounts the ache of abandonment and prejudice she endured. When she returns home to her mother in St. Louis, she is attacked by a man many times her age. Years later, she learns that love for herself, appreciation for the kindness of others, and her strong spirit provide relief from her painful past. (818.5409 Angelou, Maya)

Fox, Michael. A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Future: Twists and Turns and Lessons Learned. After abandoning high school to pursue an acting career, Michael J. Fox recalls the lessons he learned, especially when life went sideways. Through personal stories and funny anecdotes, Fox inspires readers to recognize their abilities and pursue their dreams. (791.092 Fox, Michael)

Lunden, Joan. Had I Known: A Memoir of Survival. In a deeply touching and moving story, the former "Good Morning America" host shares her battle with breast cancer, highlighting how she fought the disease and coped with her treatment, and how her experience gave her a new perspective and attitude on life. (791.092 Lunden, Joan)

Mason, C. Nicole. Born Bright: A Young Girl's Journey from Nothing to Something in America. Born to a 16-year-old single mother in 1970s Los Angeles, the odds of escaping poverty were stacked against bright Nicole Mason. But she soon learned to navigate the peculiarity of straddling her two worlds -- that of living in extreme poverty on the one hand and taking advanced placement courses with the best students in her school on the other hand. While sharing her path out of poverty, Mason shines light on the conditions that make it so difficult for so many to escape. (305.48 Mason, C. Nicole)

McCourt, Frank. Angela's Ashes: A Memoir. McCourt shares the hardships of his Irish Catholic childhood in Limerick, Ireland. Growing up in abject poverty with a charming but alcoholic father, McCourt and his family were forced to beg, steal, and do almost anything to survive. In spite of all his misfortunes, McCourt tells his childhood story with humor and compassion. (929.2 McCourt, Frank)

Vargas, Elizabeth. Between Breaths: A Memoir of Panic and Addiction. The popular "20/20" anchor recounts her journey from addiction to recovery. Her addiction took her marriage and almost her job and her life. In this gripping memoir, Vargas addresses her time in rehab, her first year of sobriety and the guilt she felt as a working mother who could never find the right balance between her job and her home life. (070.92 Vargas, Elizabeth)

Walls, Jeannette. The Glass Castle: A Memoir. Growing up in a West Virginia mining town with an alcoholic father and artistic mother, Jeannette Walls knew hardship, pain, and suffering all too well. Her father would steal the grocery money, drink, and disappear for days. Yet, in spite of all the pain, she maintains a tender, profound love of her family. (362.82092 Walls, Jeannette)

Wiesel, Elie. Night. In 1944 Wiesel's entire village was sent to a Nazi concentration camp. After his mother and sister were murdered, Elie's main motivation for survival was knowing that if he died, his father would die also. **Night** is a candid and horrific autobiographical account of a teen's survival in Auschwitz and Buchenwald near the end of World War II. (940.5318 Wiesel, Elie)

Wilson, Brian. I am Brian Wilson: A Memoir. The legendary co-founder of the Beach Boys recounts his strained relationship with his father, the multitude of women in his life, his experiences as a father, and the events in his life that inspired his music. (781.66092 Wilson, Brian)

Yousafzai, Malala. I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban. Since she was 11, Malala has waged a peaceful fight for her right to an education. By challenging the traditions of her Pakistani community, she became, at the age of 16, the youngest winner ever of the Nobel Prize for Peace. (954.91 Yousafzai, Malala)