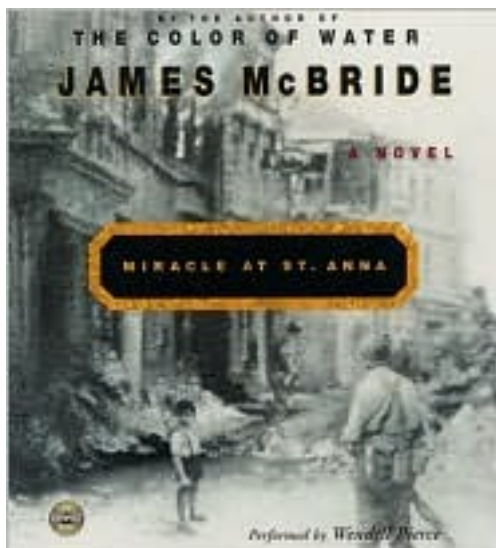

James McBride

Miracle at St. Anna CD: Miracle at St. Anna CD



Title: Miracle at St. Anna CD: Miracle at St. Anna CD

Author: James McBride

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Description

Inspired by a historical incident that took place in the village of St. Anna di Stazzema in Tuscany and by the experiences of the famed Buffalo Soldiers of the 92nd Division in Italy during World War 11, *Miracle at St. Anna* is a singular evocation of war, cruelty, passion, heroism, and love. It is the story of four American soldiers, the villagers among whom they take refuge, a band of partisans, and an Italian boy, all of whom encounter a miracle -- though perhaps the true miracle lies in themselves.

Traversing class, race, and geography, *Miracle at St. Anna* is above, all a hymn to the brotherhood of man and the power to do good that lives in each of us. It reveals a little-known but fascinating moment in history through the eyes and imagination of a gifted writer. Like *The Color of Water*, James McBride's stunning first novel will change the way we perceive ourselves and our world.

Insightful reviews

Empress5150: 2007 must have been the year of reading books by authors who had written other books that I much preferred to the current one I was reading! Case in point with "Miracle at Santa Anna". Ok, it wasn't stinko awful, but it in no way can compare with McBride's perfectly wonderful (autobiographical) "The Color of Water". "Miracle" is a tale of black soldiers fighting in Italy during WWII. They stumble across a young orphan Italian boy and a group of Italian villagers and the head of a very famous statue from a bridge in Florence. I think the story is supposed to illustrate how miracles can be found in the crappiest of places and in the seemingly crappiest of people (that people can surprise you with how they will sacrifice for you). But, I'm not really sure, because by the end of the CDs, I was pretty bored and only finished it because I didn't really have anything else to listen to. BTW, I had started to listen to this back in 2003 driving home to California from New York but I just couldn't get into it. I probably should have simply forgone listening to it in 2007, too! I really hope McBride can come up with something better the next time.

Anne: I read this book because I really enjoyed *The Color of Water*. I was mostly dissapointed by *Miracle at St. Anna*. I felt that although he was a good writer, his execution of the story was weak. He would create climaxes in the story that would anticipate this incredible outcome, and each time I was left very disappointed. I think the plot was a good one, but his overall ability to tell a story was weak. If McBride writes another autobiography, I will pick it up in a heartbeat because he is a good journalist. It is more his ability to tell a creative story that I don't like as much.

I also want to say that he had some sexual references that were NOT necessary! They were not even in reference to the soldiers, but the Italian villagers. And I feel that he didn't need to go in to those references to develop the relationship between villagers. Why can't authors be creative in developing characters and the relationships between them without laying all things sexual out there? It takes good creativity to leave some imagination to the reader to develop their own ideas of the relationships, without sacrificing the main points.

Brian DiMattia: I'm torn on what to rate this book. I was sure it was a five most of the way through, but then had a major gripe with the ending. If ever there was a "4 1/2" star book it would be this.

A wonderful book that hooked me from the first chapter. The preview chapter was so intriguing that I didn't want to read the rest...I HAD to read the rest. And the rest didn't disappoint. The plot, four minority soldiers find an emotionally damaged boy behind German lines in WWII Italy and end up in a purgatory of infighting, secrets, horror and abandonment, was beautifully crafted. It moved at just the right pace, never so fast that you lost track of detail in the rush, and never so slow that you felt bogged down by every last little bit of exposition.

And the structure was fascinating. It has the feel of a dual narrative novel, a structure that gets confusing if done poorly, but if done well has a flow to it, letting your mind relax from one narrative and process what's happened while you see someone else in a different situation. Here, the alternate stream wasn't a narrative train, but a collection of short narratives about related characters, segments of history, and expansion on the different cultures that were meeting.

The whole thing was brilliantly done. The chapter on the history of the statue head was what made me decide I needed to own this book. The chapter on Italy during and after the war was deeply moving and human. The separate narrative about the officers in charge of the company was fascinating.

But there is one major flaw to this book. The ending. Not even the ending of the plot, because that was fine. The way the ending detailed "what happened" in the minds of each character. The story has five main characters, the four soldiers and the boy. It has four second level characters: A woman who helps the soldiers, her father, and two partisans. Of the main characters, only four have actual endings. Of the four secondary characters, only one or two have endings depending on your point of view.

When I say endings, I mean one final moment for the reader to see the character before they leave the narrative for a variety of reasons. Several characters find happiness, or meaning in their lives, or even redemption. But the rest of the ending seems slapped on, like McBride was pulling an all-nighter on a school project and around 3 AM said 'that's good enough.'

I could forgive even the clumsy handling of the secondary characters, but my favorite of the main characters seemed to be left nowhere. What happens with him is described, but he doesn't get the chance to express it himself, to sum anything up, or to leave the text on a note of completion. The others do, and it really bothered me! I was left thinking less of a book that I had absolutely loved up to that point, because a character that had been very important up until then seemed to be simply forgotten about by his author.

Still, on the whole the book was good enough that I'll stick with five stars. For now. You know, unless I change my mind which I'm bound to. Repeatedly!

Booknblues: "On December 12, 1944, Sam teach turned invisible for the 1st time. He

remembered it exactly. He used to be status at the financial institution of the Cinquale Canal, simply north of uniqueness dei Marmi, in Italy. It used to be dawn. The order used to be to go. 100 and twenty black squaddies from the 92nd department bunched at the back of 5 tanks and watched them roll towards the water, then clumsily waded in in the back of them, rifles held high." So starts off James McBride's *Miracle at St. Anna*, an e-book that grabs you and not allows you to move until eventually the final page. Sam teach and 3 different squaddies turn into separated from their department and rescue an Italian boy, prior to discovering their option to the picturesque village of St. Anna di Stazzema. the folks of the village are enchanting. there's Ludovico, who has swiftly reproducing rabbits hidden less than his bed room floor, his fierce and fiery daughter Renata and the village witch Ettore. I enjoyed this pleasant and candy story. it really is might be no longer on par with McBride's e-book *Song but Sung*, yet a useful read.

Carol: 8/12/12: additional to my 'to read' checklist simply because I simply entire his "*Song but Sung*" and enjoyed it. 8/28/12: it is a attractive booklet in regards to the Buffalo squaddies the united states despatched to Italy in WWII. The surprising therapy of the black infantrymen by means of their white officers, in lots of circumstances not so good as the blacks in intelligence, good judgment and compassion, will confound you. That the black squaddies persisted to do their jobs in most unlikely events is difficult to explain. the tale begins with four black infantrymen who turned separated from their comrades in arms. they discovered a tender Italian boy, badly wounded. one of many black infantrymen carried the injured boy to safety, fed him, and nursed him again to a semblance of health. while the Germans overran their position, OOPS, I am preventing here, I hate it while humans supply away the story. there's love, courage, betrayal, and a plethora of human feelings attractive described. learn **THIS BOOK!** Then there's it sounds as if a movie out, i'll get it from NetFlix asap.

Miles: this can be a deeply good written book. Black American infantrymen misplaced at the back of the traces in mountain-top Italian towns, overdue within the moment global War, combat with what and who they're battling for (America? the White man? every one other? Italian villagers? self-respect? or?) McBride performs with the inconceivable occasions which may or will not be marvelous - a marginally of magical realism, or even easily a manner of conveying the subjective event of his characters - yet as a rule he retains it real. He paints what sounds like an genuine portrait of yankee black males of the Forties within the US military and the racist white officials who command them, and of Italian villagers and partisans suffering against, and infrequently now not against, the German army. those conferences exhibit realities and attitudes that I had no longer considered very much. whilst I believe of 1944 or 1945, I believe of the conflict of the Bulge and my father's adventure in Europe. But, of course, here, right here in Italy, there has been an entire different brutal campaign, which McBride brings alive in intimate and private ways. this can be a fantastically written portrait of people, squaddies and civilians, stuck in warfare from what was once for me a unique element of view.

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