



Letters to a Young Brother: Manifest Your Destiny

By Hill Harper

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Offering inspirational advice in a down-to-earth style, this unique compilation of letters provides wisdom, guidance, and heartfelt insight to help the reader chart their own path to success. Based on the author's motivational speaking at inner-city schools across the country, the letters deal with the tough issues that face young people today.

Bombarded with messages from music and the media, Harper set out to dispel the stereotypical image of success that young people receive today and instead emphasizes alternative views of what it truly means to be a successful male, such as educational and community achievements and self-respect. Intended to provide this frequently regarded "lost generation" of young men with words of encouragement and guidance, Harper's deep-rooted passion regarding the plight of today's youth drove him to write this book, sure to change the lives of readers for years to come.

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Letters to a Young Brother: Manifest Your Destiny By Hill Harper Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #14713 in Books
- Brand: Gotham
- Published on: 2007-04-19
- Released on: 2007-04-19
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .50" w x 5.30" l, .45 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 176 pages

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Editorial Review

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Inspired by Rainer Maria Rilke's *Letters to a Young Poet*, Harper, a young black actor and graduate of Brown University and Harvard Law School, offers similar inspiration to young men clamoring for advice and encouragement at a time when popular culture offers little positive direction. Interspersed throughout are e-mail inquiries from young men and Harper's responses and those of other celebrities, including Nas, Venus Williams, and Barack Obama. He devotes separate chapters to school and work, sex, and life aspirations, tackling such issues as single parenthood, sexually transmitted diseases, the allure of materialism, and the power of words and faith. Harper offers his personal story: a young man brought up by a demanding father, who developed a relationship with his mother only as he grew older. He views the youth of today as an evolved species, like the latest model car, with improvements that come from the experiences of those who came before. Although aimed at young black men, this book, with its contemporary language and approach, should have appeal for youth of both sexes and all races. *Vernon Ford*

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Review

In a direct and often colloquial tone . . . the letters stress the importance of having options and working smart, not just hard. (*THE NEW YORK TIMES*)

Harper's message is a solo soaring above the choir. (*LOS ANGELES TIMES*)

Hill writes in a down-to-earth style. . . . A priceless, no-nonsense, step-by-step guide. (*The Dayton Defender*)

Filled with heartfelt wisdom and solid step-by-step strategies for cultivating self-respect, *Letters to a Young Brother* is an inspirational guidebook to a better life and a book that will change lives. (*Black College Today*)

[This] book can serve as a strong and silent mentor. (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*)

In clear, accessible language, Harper encourages his youthful readers to maintain productive values and never give up hope. . . . With frank, loving advice about relationships, careers, sex, education, spirituality, and money, Harper helps young readers take that first step toward fruitful change. (Jabari Asim, *The Washington Post*)

About the Author

Currently starring in *CSI: NY*, Hill Harper has appeared in numerous prime-time television shows and feature films, including *Beloved* and *He Got Game*. He graduated magna cum laude from Brown University with a B.A. and cum laude from Harvard Law School. He also holds a master's degree in public administration from the Kennedy School of Government. He was recently named one of *People* magazine's Sexiest Men Alive.

Users Review

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Lauren Miner:

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