



Letters to a Young Brother: Manifest Your Destiny

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.

Letters to a Young Brother: Manifest Your Destiny Details

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Author : Hill Harper

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Rashaun says

Black male struggle seems to be a clique them that finds its way into American society. Though this theme may seem redundant, repetitive and continuous, the truth of the matter is that there is a struggle with Black men in America as there is one in many other countries. Reading "Letters to a Young Brother", I felt as though many of the themes concerning Black men such as personal success, respect for your brother and mother, taking responsibility for your life and actions, and many more were touched in this book.

From just reading the title, you know the book is targeted to young men. Then with the understanding of Black culture, you can infer that the book is targeted to African American males. Underneath the title, you can see that the man in "Manifest You Destiny" is in all capitals, suggesting that Hill Harper's idea in this book is to teach young Black males to be men. I think he does a good job of that. The things with these books is that they don't do that much of a job connecting to struggles that are already known. He took a different approach by being blunt with many of his ideas and thoughts, speaking openly about tough topics like being a father and having sex for example, he went over many ways to be responsible when faced with these situations. Not only were his opinions in the book, but other celebrities were too.

Black celebrities have the ability to make an impact on other Black people simply through speech. Hill Harper is known for playing in movies, and being a main character in CSI: New York. He's been a NAACO award recipient and nominee, and he gives much of the credit for his successes to his family. In the book, he talks much about that aspect of not only his life, but life in general.

One thing that I think everyone should still take from this book even considering that it's targeted to Black males, is that this is a book for all young males. In every society and different parts of society, whether it be culturally, socially, racially, and economically, every young male goes through a similar struggle becoming a man. Respect for other individuals, getting and maintaining an education and job, avoiding legal troubles, and being a role model to everyone they come across that looks to them for guidance are just some of the things that males experience themselves coming across daily. This book touches on all these things and more. So with that being said, don't let the title deter you from allowing the book to reach all kinds of people because it can.

Eismyname says

Empowering. I would definitively recommend it for teens and young adults.

Alexandrea McCullough says

I am now starting to read this book and this book is very honest with men in real life today. Hill young brother is a smart young boy and he is trying to get his work done but his friends are punking him out so this book is really honest and I like this book. I'm on page 22

sydney says

Let's be honest: I'm not exactly the target audience for this book. But I read it because I work with high school boys and was hoping it would live up to its hype as an inspirational, real book for young men, and it did. I like Hill Harper a lot after reading this book. He comes across as caring, accessible, and honest. His advice is clear and easy to understand, and he calls on other role models (Barack Obama, Venus Williams, Nas) to help him tackle the issues in the book (school, family, sex, money, etc.). His advice is straightforward and makes sense: save money, don't disrespect yourself or others, make healthy choices about sex, focus on schoolwork, dream big, and always work to improve yourself.

The only thing I thought this book was lacking was some mention of homosexuality... aren't gay young brothers still brothers? I would have loved for Harper to address the homophobia that has become so acceptable among young men.

Highly recommended for middle- and high-school students.

Kathryn says

The premise of this book is that Hill Harper (an actor I'm not really familiar with from CSI: NY) was inspired by the book *Letters to a Young Poet* and decided to write a book similar to that for young African American males. He said that the letters were based on questions he's gotten from fans in emails, letters, and when he talks to kids at schools, etc.

That being said I was excited to see someone taking the time to be a positive role model for young men. When I saw this book I thought it would be one that my students would enjoy (I teach at an inner-city 7-12 grade all boys school). I'm not completely convinced. While it was neat that Hill took the time to write these letters all on topics: saving money/debt, relationships/sex, dreams/goals, importance of education, etc. Sometimes the stance seemed like he was trying to show off about how successful he is, more than truly writing from the heart. For example, he would end his letter by essentially saying "I'm here in Hawaii living the good life" or "I'm off to shoot another movie" or "I met a really hot girl and now we're going to hang out". IT also was incessant name dropping, "I'm off to Jay-z's VMA party" or "I was hanging out with Gabrielle Union the other day" etc. etc. Thus the book came off as corny frequently, and I wonder if my students would really connect to what he said. It felt like Harper needed a pat on the back for his ego a lot.

That being said the messages that he was attempting to give to young men, especially that of working hard and working smart, living within your means/saving your money, "staying in the game" (school) were all messages that my students could really benefit from, and on the flipside it is neat to hear this successful African American guy say that to them. Harper is not just an actor he also graduated from Brown University as well as Harvard Law, and frequently stresses the importance of staying in school.

All in all the book isn't going to do any harm, but I wonder would students truly connect.

On one last separate note his "universe conspiring" to bring you good things when you.... philosophy did not sit well with me either, but I won't even begin to delve in on that one.

Christopher says

The book "Letters to a Young Brother: MANifest Your Destiny (Paperback)" is a compelling book that I think all young men should read. What I like about this book is that it spoke the truth, even though it was published in 2006 the problems that youths and young brothers are facing are still going on today four years later. I like the way the author connected the different letters that he recieved to his personal life. If I were the author I would write a book to the females in this world, becuase they need as much guidance in the world as males do. It would probably also be helpful if the women get to see a male's point of what is going on in the world, or what men may think about them. I noticed how the author (Hill Harper) was really affected by some of these letters becuase some of the problems that were happening in these young men's lives also happened when he was younger. I would rate this book as a 10 out of 10 becuase it really was a capturing book. I would also recomend this book to every young man trying to make it in life but needs help.

Bonkers Young says

Great self-help book whether man or woman.

Abraham says

OK, I have to quality my rating for this book. I didn't really enjoy it that much, mostly because his voice and writing style seem forced and unconvincing.

HOWEVER...I understand that I am not the intended audience for this book, and that's why I give it 5 stars. The intended readers are teenage males. And considering how frustrating I find it that so few celebrity males go this far out of their way to be role models for youth, how could I really criticize this guy for not being the best writer ever?

I have to respect any male who is not afraid to reveal himself as honestly as Hill does here. He talks about confidence, girls, success, education, fear, commitment, hard work, etc. I applaud his message and I will recommend this to my students.

Zack Marcinkiewicz says

Hill Harper gives a young man the tools required in order to be someone notable in a tough generation via e-mail. Young Brotha is that young man. He's very confused about his life and is seeking somewhat of a father figure which he's never had to help him traverse through life's many obstacles. It all started with one letter. Hill eventually befriends Young Brotha, and they begin to exchange letters. Like every young man, Young Brotha is faced with adversity and Hill provides him advice on how to deal with it appropriately. Young men these days are bombarded with artificial images of what a man SHOULD be. Hill guides Young Brotha and teaches him the real meaning of what being a man is.

This book is a heartwarming example, that in this life, although there may be many circumstances in which you will be put under pressure, with the right judgment, you will overcome. I found this book enlightening, and I bet if young men took the time to read it they would also. I was as well as Young Brotha, worrying about my career and education until I read this book. Hill answered many of my questions about life and I'm

thankful for that. I believe that this is a potentially life-changing book. That may sound exaggerated, but if you read this book, you'd understand.

Ivonne Rovira says

Forget about the title. Hill Harper has crafted a fabulous book that will appeal to nearly all teens -- not just at-risk African-American boys. While the book speaks directly to African-American males, its smart yet cool approach to the problems that plague all teens, but particularly young people who are poor or members of a minority group, will also be a hit with girls and members of other beleaguered minority groups, as well. The language is laden with slang but intelligent, and both Harper and his extremely phat friends will make inroads where even caring teachers and parents might not. The book could easily have become sappy, but it never does.

Harper's inclusion of his celebrity friends and of full-color photographs of him partying with them might provoke some teen to read the book who might not at first been inclined to do so. It was another spot-on move by Harper. I am really grateful to him for providing young people with such a frank blueprint for growth.

Students who might be Caucasian and affluent will still love the book's message that everyone -- even handsome, successful TV stars -- sometimes feel lonely, have trouble approaching members of the opposite sex, and make mistakes.

What about straight-A students bound for Yale? They will be attracted to Harper, who graduated from Harvard Law School *cum laude*. The school's jocks will love that Harper was a college football hero. For the free spirits out there, Harper begins each chapter with a pithy quote from sources as disparate as the Persian poet Rumi, former President Bill Clinton, and rapper Andre 3000 (nee André Benjamin). Harper really has a hook for most of the cliques in American high schools.

Miles Harrell says

I would give letters to a young brother a 5 star rating because it tells alot about the struggles that I have at school and the things that I deal with. One of the letters took us deeper on how some people feel without a parent in their life. That is because a kid had written a letter asking how should I feel on mother's day if I don't have a mom. Harper replied sharing a story about how he did not have a dad growing up and how he had to live without him. But he also said that his mom was not running away because of him, she was running from responsibility of taking care of him.

To be honest this book was one of the best books i have ever read and on a scale of one to 100 its 1000, for sure recommended.

Marcus Hill says

This was a wonderful read and I'm glad I decided to pick it up.

Pretty amazing how well he conveys the messages to the "Young Brotha" and how easy the message are to understand.

I enjoyed some of the ups and downs Hill Harper takes the reader through and how he explains the bigger picture of some of his failures or mistakes.

Cam St.cyr says

Hill harper wrote a great meaningfulbook for young adults. The events in the book were based on the experiences Harper had mentoring kids. Harper gives the kidd some good advice from his perspective . Then he would call up and contact one of his close friends and they would give the kid some good advice too. Throughout the book Harper and the kid did not communicate through phone calls, in person but through emails.through the phone or even in person it was through emails. Also in the book he talks about where he got his name from and how he made the debate team and how his siblings and him got beat and he and his brother moved into a foster home.

Janene says

"Unreasonably Happy" Thank you Hill Harper for Letters to a Young Brother. This is a must read for every young man. If you have a son, young brother or just know a young man I recommend you gift this book to them. The principles Hill Harper shares and teaches young brother are lessons everyone can benefit from especially young men.

Jorih Riley says

this book is very helpfull for young man to know how to survive in life. I personally believe that every young male should read this book to better there life
