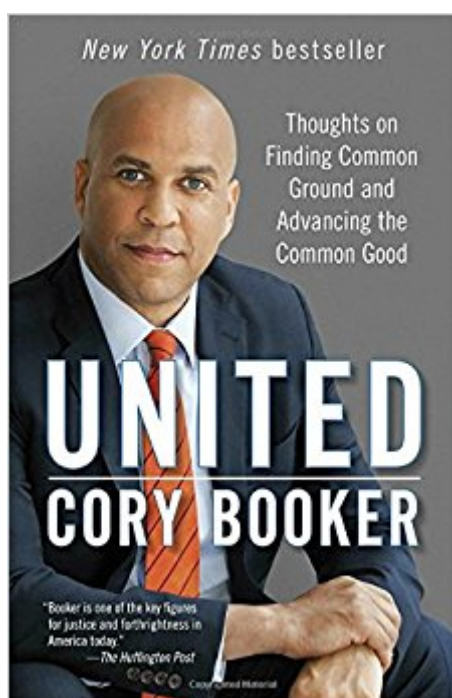


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United: Thoughts On Finding Common Ground And Advancing The Common Good



Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A passionate new voice in American politics, United States Senator Cory Booker makes the case that the virtues of empathy, responsibility, and action must guide our nation toward a brighter future. Raised in northern New Jersey, Cory Booker went to Stanford University on a football scholarship, accepted a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University, then studied at Yale Law School. Graduating from Yale, his options were limitless. He chose public service. He chose to move to a rough neighborhood in Newark, New Jersey, where he worked as a tenants' rights lawyer before winning a seat on the City Council. In 2006, he was elected mayor, and for more than seven years he was the public face of an American city that had gone decades with too little positive national attention and investment. In 2013, Booker became the first African American elected to represent New Jersey in the U.S. Senate. In *United*, Cory Booker draws on personal experience to issue a stirring call to reorient our nation and our politics around the principles of compassion and solidarity. He speaks of rising above despair to engage with hope, pursuing our shared mission, and embracing our common destiny. Here is his account of his own political education, the moments—some entertaining, some heartbreaking, all of them enlightening—that have shaped his civic vision. Here are the lessons Booker learned from the remarkable people who inspired him to serve, men and women whose example fueled his desire to create opportunities for others. Here also are his observations on the issues he cares about most deeply, from race and crime and the crisis of mass incarceration to economic and environmental justice. "Hope is the active conviction that despair will never have the last word," Booker writes in this galvanizing book. In a world where we too easily lose touch with our neighbors, he argues, we must remember that we all rise or fall together—and that we must move beyond mere tolerance for one another toward a deeper connection: love. Praise for *United* • "An exceedingly good book, and an important book, and a reminder of what makes Booker an important and, through it all, a promising public figure." —PolitickerNJ • "What sets Senator Booker's work apart from that of similar political books is that it seeks to elevate discourse rather than bring down opponents of the opposite partisan persuasion. This is a refreshing take, one that is truly worthy of study and contemplation." —The Huffington Post From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

“An exceedingly good book, and an important book, and a reminder of what makes [Cory] Booker an important and, through it all, a promising public figure.” “PolitickerNJ” “What sets Senator Booker’s work apart from that of similar political books is that it seeks to elevate discourse rather than bring down opponents of the opposite partisan persuasion. This is a refreshing take, one that is truly worthy of study and contemplation.” “The Huffington Post

Cory Booker is the junior United States senator from New Jersey. He was born in Washington, D.C., and his parents, who both worked for IBM, later relocated the family to Harrington Park, New Jersey. A star high school athlete, Booker received a football scholarship to Stanford University, where he earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees. He then attended Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar before earning his law degree from Yale University. Booker won a special election to fill the term of the late Senator Frank Lautenberg to become New Jersey’s first African American senator and only the twenty-first person in American history to ascend directly from mayor to senator. Booker lives in Newark’s Central Ward. From the Hardcover edition.

I listened to the audiobook version, which is narrated by the author. Booker’s purpose for the book was to help the reader understand his own personal mission in the government and how he hopes to help better the lives of Americans. He illustrates his family’s journey through segregation and the combination of hard work, kindness, and luck that helped to get his family (and him) to where he is today. He discusses his own work in Newark and the various people who influenced him. He avoids name-dropping his celebrity friends and instead highlights the people who were on the ground doing the work when he came along to offer his help and his vision. I appreciated the fact that Booker

highlights many of the mistakes he made during the journey from Rhodes Scholar and Yale Law School graduate to Newark mayor and later U.S. Senator. Not only did he make mistakes in his approach and vision as to what he could accomplish when he first moved into Newark, but talks about mistakes that led to significant consequences. His perspective on helping alleviate poverty and racial division is inspiring and it is obvious that he is still the optimist, despite nearly twenty years of public service. The only criticisms I have are that 1) he can be a little repetitive with facts/data/sayings through the book and 2) that he did not provide a list of sources for the data he cited in the book. I know on a recent interview someone mentioned that and he said they have the information but decided not to put it in the book because it can be easily recalled online, but citations would have been preferred for me.

This is really an extraordinary book. I recommend it to anyone who wants to be inspired in their daily lives or to solve bigger problems in work, family or society. I recommend it to anyone who wants to feel uplifted. The vivid stories make me think about my own ancestry and heritage, my connections with my own parents and children, and with my neighborly community and the wider community beyond my small town. In the first chapter, Cory tells about his wise and sharp-witted parents and grandparents (and ancestry behind that, and the dramatic story of learning about them), and how his family came through incredible circumstances to live in a white suburb in the early '70s. The next chapter is vivid detail of Cory's moving into a housing project and the mix of people - all of whom make up a powerful and humane narrative that applies to cities all over America. Each chapter is an incredible new experience. The book is focusing me on my connections -- which I'm more inspired to call brotherhood/sisterhood -- including with people I don't yet know, but with whom I want to take more time to know. During the few days I read the book, I jumped out of bed in the morning to hear what's next, and because I felt more positive and inspired that day, with the greater feeling of power and optimism to improve my own kids' lives that very day. Cory's stories and attitudes ring so true, so vivid. After reading the book, I was inspired to get the book on my iPhone to listen to in the car, something I highly recommend because he reads it with both the heart and charisma that he developed, through his own hard work and the network of friendships and love that exist in his life. There's a lot of everything for everyone in this book! It would be very sad indeed if only politically-minded people read *United*, and even sadder if only, say, urban Democrats read it. It's a book for everyone, the general public. It's just a great, great book! It lives up to its title. We are all united, and in ways that we're not, we should strive to be. The book inspires me to move toward that in my internal, family and outward life. Was this review too positive for you to believe? Rest assured,

I have never met Cory Booker, and am not even a Democrat.

This book was fun to read and it was great to get familiar with what's happened in Cory's life since high school. We went to High School together. He wouldn't remember me, but I certainly remember him and his brother Cary. Always had a bit of a crush on the both of them! The book is well written, and Cory is an amazing person. He takes you through his journey of getting a real life education in how to help people in very challenging situations. Highly recommended.

I was impressed with Booker's detailed account of the lessons his parents taught him growing up. Booker pays homage to the mentors he had along the way in Newark as well. This is someone that has always seemed to be more genuine than the rest of the politicians he works with. Looking forward to seeing what more he will do in the years ahead.

I purchased this book to find out something of a senator in the news, to discover how he thought. Sound up finishing the book in a long afternoon. Although the book runs on a bit (that's why 4 stars), Cory Booker tells a fascinating story. Recommended for anyone who wants to see behind the scenes of the "news".

Very interesting book. Applaud him for living in the same means as his constituents. Everyone of our elected officials should experience what people who voted for them go through. Then they might get a true opinion of the people is & have to take off those rose colored glasses!!!

While this book is a bit tedious, for the most part it tells the story of the education of a politician. The author explains how he learned about different needs of the city dweller. Much of this is useful for anyone, especially in our urban life , to learn.

Such an interesting read. This was my first book by a politician. I really enjoyed it. Cory Booker is great guy and I recommend anyone to read his story.

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