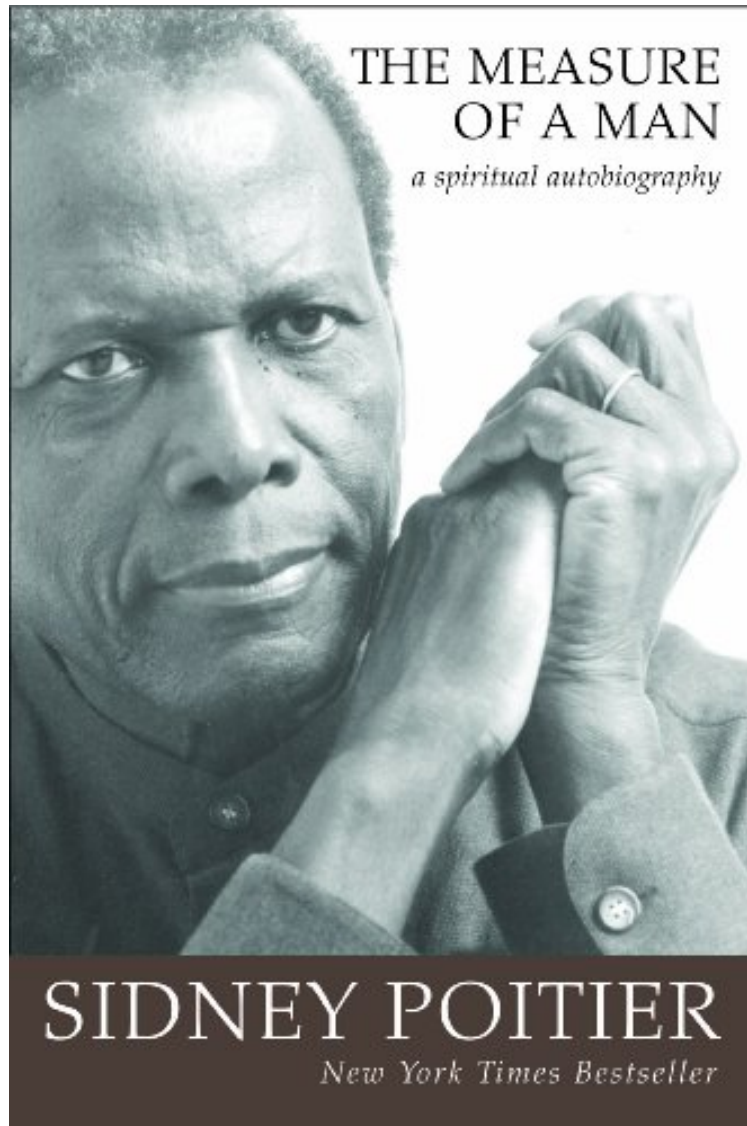


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## The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography (Oprah's Book Club)

Von Sidney Poitier

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**Von Sidney Poitier : The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography (Oprah's Book Club)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography (Oprah's Book Club):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. spannende ReflexionenVon PeterIn seinem Buch "The Measure of a Man" beschreibt Sidney Poitier seine

Lebensgeschichte anhand von einzelnen besonderen Ereignissen aus seinem Leben, welche jedes für sich sehr bedeutungsvoll sind, für Sidney selber, den Leser und den Handlungsfluss im Buch. Aus der Warte eines erfahrenen Mannes, der viel erlebt hat, schaut er zurück auf die Tage seiner Kindheit und reflektiert über sein eigenes Verhalten und Empfinden. Gleichzeitig erlebt der Leser die Welt, in der er selber lebt (Nordamerika), aus der Perspektive eines Zuwanderers von den Cat Islands (Bahamas). Dadurch wird man gezwungen, alles selbstverständliche neu zu bedenken und zu reflektieren. Und dadurch spricht man, dass der Inseljunge ohne Schulbildung nicht minder empfindsam, intelligent und damit menschlich wertvoll ist, als Mitglied des "Bildungsbergertums". Grossen Eindruck auf Sidney machen durchweg die Rassenvorurteile, die er nach seiner Emigration plötzlich am eigenen Leib erfahren muss und bei ihm eine Verweigerung der blöden Anpassungshaltung bewirken. Dadurch wird sein Lebensweg nicht unbedingt einfacher, er eckt überall wo es denkbar ist an. Das Buch ist in einem leicht verständlichen, sehr lebendigem amerikanischen Englisch geschrieben und fesselnd-spannend. In jeder Zeile spricht man die Würde und Weisheit dieses erfahrenen Mannes, ohne dass jemals das Gefühl des gehobenen Zeigefingers aufkommt. Dabei handelt es sich um den typisch amerikanischen Mythos vom Immigranten - Tellerwischer - reichberhmt-sein. Es lohnt sich auf jeden Fall, das Werk auf englisch zu lesen, deutsche Adaptionen sind zumeist holprig und verlieren viel von der Originalität. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Great Actor - Gifted Author! Von annie I would highly recommend this book to everyone. While I do not always enjoy autobiographies, this book is a great exception. It is not just filled with dates and facts. It reaches inside the man and into his very soul. From his beginning on Cat Island, to today's highly successful life as an actor, Sidney Poitier has had an incredible life. He was blessed early in life with the greatest blessing anyone can have - great parents! This book made me stop and think of all the many blessings in my life, too many of which I take for granted sometimes. I hope that everyone who reads this book, and especially young people, will benefit from his insight and wisdom. 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Measure of a Man Von Ein Kunde Wonderful. Mr. Poitier not only provides a full recounting of his personal history, but also a unique perspective on the cultural, economic, religious, theatrical and ethnic worlds that he has inhabited--and in no small measure has contributed to. Here is a fully mature, deeply thoughtful, yet highly entertaining introspection that goes beyond platitudes right to the heart of so many of the painful, joyful, hilarious, embarrassing, proud, and deeply moving events of a life fully and unapologetically lived. Poitier pulls no punches; where he was thrilled by one of life's joyous moments, he lets us know; where he was furious with one of the too-frequent insults delivered so casually to people of color, we learn that as well. One of the unexpected pleasures for me came because I bought the unabridged audiotope. I highly recommend this version. An actor of incomparable talent, Mr. Poitier brings to his readings decades of experience in delivering powerful ideas in a captivating style, made all the more potent because these are the memories that have been his ever-present touchstones. As we move through life, we tend to discard most of our early models as we discover faults that diminish their aura. The world would do well to consider Mr. Poitier as an antidote to these false models. He makes no pretense of perfection, and indeed embraces his faults and more importantly the lessons he has learned from them. This awareness of frailty, as much as the considerable strength of character he has displayed, is, in the end, the real "Measure of a Man."

Kurzbeschreibung "I have no wish to play the pontificating fool, pretending that I've suddenly come up with the answers to all life's questions. Quite the contrary, I began this book as an exploration, an exercise in selfquestioning. In other words, I wanted to find out, as I looked back at a long and complicated life, with many twists and turns, how well I've done at measuring up to the values I myself have set." In this luminous memoir, a true American icon looks back on his celebrated life and career. His body of work is arguably the most morally significant in cinematic history, and the power and influence of that work are indicative of the character of the man behind the many storied roles. Sidney Poitier here explores these elements of character and personal values to take his own measure--as a man, as a husband and father, and as an actor. Poitier credits his parents and his childhood on tiny Cat Island in the Bahamas for equipping him with the unflinching sense of right and wrong and of selfworth that he has never surrendered and that have dramatically shaped his world. "In the kind of place where I grew up," recalls Poitier, "what's coming at you is the sound of the sea and the smell of the wind and momma's voice and the voice of your dad and the craziness of your brothers and sisters ... and that's it." Without television, radio, and material distractions to obscure what matters most, he could enjoy the simple things, endure the long commitments, and find true meaning in his life. Poitier was uncompromising as he pursued a personal and public life that would honor his upbringing and the invaluable legacy of his parents just a few years after his introduction to indoor plumbing and the automobile, Poitier broke racial barrier after racial barrier to launch a pioneering acting career. Committed to the notion that what one does for a living articulates who one is, Poitier played only forceful and affecting characters who said something positive, useful, and lasting about the human condition. Here, finally, is Poitier's own introspective look at what has informed his performances and his life. Poitier explores the nature of sacrifice and commitment, pride and humility, rage and forgiveness, and paying the price for artistic integrity. What emerges is a picture of a man seeking truth, passion, and

balance in the face of limits--his own and the world's. A triumph of the spirit, *The Measure of a Man* captures the essential Poitier. deSidney Poitier wrote *The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography* because he "felt called to write about certain values, such as integrity and commitment, faith and forgiveness, about the virtues of simplicity, about the difference between 'amusing ourselves to death' and finding meaningful pleasures--even joy." Yet Poitier's book does not speak from on high; its tone is conversational and endearingly self-critical. He begins the first chapter by recounting an evening spent channel-surfing and wondering, as most of us do at one time or another, "What am I doing with my time?" The spiritual reflections in *The Measure of a Man* are nonsectarian; Poitier's faith is clearly influenced by his experience in Christian churches, but he is not, strictly, Christian. Though idiosyncratic, his faith is disciplined and rigorous, informed by leaders as diverse as Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. Poitier's love--for himself, his family, and the world--infuses his recollections of his early life on Cat Island in the Bahamas and his memories of his stage and film career (including his Oscar-winning role in *Lilies of the Field*). Poitier has been rich and poor; he has been popular and despised; and his extremely varied experiences have made him a wise man, as he demonstrates with statements like this one: "[W]hat we do is stay within the context of what's practical, what's real, what dreams can be fashioned into reality, what values can send us to bed comfortably and make us courageous enough to face our end with character." *Pressestimmen* With the unwavering sense of dignity and worth . . . this mans authenticity is earned by the life he describes. (Los Angeles Times) Reading *The Measure of a Man* is somewhat akin to having a worthwhile conversation with a revered older relative; he doesnt always tell you what you want to hear, but you appreciate it just the same. (Washington Post) An affecting new memoir. (Dallas Morning News) In this powerful book, [Poitier] shares his touchstones with us and makes us question what foundations guide our own lives. (Ebony) Revealing . . . Poitier invites us to re-examine his work and, through it, our history. (New York Times Magazine) Candid memoirs from teh actor who has starred in more than forty movies, directed nine, and written four. (USA Today) Reflective, generous, humane . . . moving . . . [Poitier] writes with vivid emotion. (New York Times Book ) Having already penned a book about his professional life, legendary actor Sidney Poitier tackles a greater subject--life itself--with this new spiritual autobiography. (American Way)