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Dreads

By Francesco Mastalia, Alfonse Pagano



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Dreadlocks are a modern phenomenon with roots reaching as far back as the fifth century. According to ancient Hindu beliefs, dreads signified a singleminded pursuit of the spiritual. Devotion to God displaced vanity, and hair was left to its own devices.

Dreads captures this organic explosion of hair in all its beautiful, subversive glory. One hundred duotone portraits present dread-heads from around the world, in all walks of life. Interviewed on location by the photographers, *jatta*-wearers wax philosophic about the integrity of their hair, and every stunning image confirms their choice. Alice Walker puts words to pictures, offering lyrical ruminations about her decision to let her own mane mat.



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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

YA-This large, coffee-table type book with black-and-white photographs looks at the wide diversity of people who sport this knotted, ropelike hairdo. Some display it theatrically, while others wear it to stress their individuality. Others have religious or political reasons. The author also looks at dreadlocks in history, including the priests of the Ethiopian Coptic Church who have been locking their hair since the fifth century and the Rastafarian movement, which began religiously in Ethiopia. There is an introduction by Alice Walker as well as a 20-page treatise on "Sacred Rites of the Natural Hair Revolution." The 100 plates of men, women, and children in various cultures and at varying levels of modernity show this amazing hairstyle doing its thing in variety and abundance. The hair itself arouses interest and speculation as to the time involved in achieving it, the intricacies of the hygiene, and simply the wonder of it all.

Frances Reiher, Fairfax County Public Library, VA

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From the Inside Flap

Dreads. Jatta. Ndiagne. Palu. Natty, knotted, ropelike locks. Curly knobs, tiny plaits, intricate weaves. Dreads are a modern phenomena with roots that reach as far back as the fifth century. According to ancient Hindu beliefs, dreadlocks signified a singleminded pursuit of the spiritual. Devotion to God displaced vanity, and hair was left to its own devices. In the West, locks are a relatively recent fashion, born of the Black Power movement of the sixties and the infiltration of reggae into popular music.

In "Dreads," photographers Francesco Mastalia and Alfonse Pagano capture the rebels of this natural hair revolution in all their beautiful, subversive glory. One hundred duotone portraits present dread-heads from all walks of life: a Brooklyn postal worker, a Japanese farmer, an Indian sadhu, a Jamaican drummer. Interviewed on location by the photographers, jatta-wearers from around the world wax philosophic about the integrity of their hair, and every stunning image confirms their choice. In her introduction, Alice Walker offers lyrical ruminations about her decision to let her own mane mat.

Today, trendsetters in Tokyo pay thousands of yen to have their poker-straight hair literally drilled into locks. The fact that the young and hip now go to such extremes to imitate what was originally a statement against artificiality proves the growing popularity of dreads. From a nappy-topped newborn to a Rastafarian elder with hair roped around his waist, "Dreads" rejoices in the essence of the individual, set free by an organic explosion of hair.

From the Back Cover

I couldn't imagine those black ropes on their heads were hair...natural hair to which nothing was added, not even a brushing...I wondered what such hair felt like, smelled like. What a person dreamed about at night, with hair like that spreading across the pillow...

—from the introduction by Alice Walker

"Beautiful book, beautiful hair, beautiful people, beautiful exhilarating spirituality. I loved it and love my (our) hair." —Anne Lamott author of *Traveling Mercies*

"Dreads is an exquisite artistic testament to the individuality of the men and women who make dreads not only a look but a way of life. These cross-cultural images demonstrate that the human visage is the first

artistic canvas we have access to."—Farai Chideya author of *The Color of Our Future*

"There is always the question of whether you grow locks or your locks grow you. This book shows dreadlocks that are funky, elegant, sexy, dramatic, spiritual—and always beautiful. It makes me very happy to be nappy."—Veronica Chambers author of *Mama's Girl*

Photographed on location in Jamaica, Japan, New Zealand, Kenya, Namibia, Ethiopia, Angola, Senegal, India, and the United States

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Brian Street:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open or read a book titled Dreads? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have some other opinion?

Robert Shaw:

The event that you get from Dreads will be the more deep you searching the information that hide into the words the more you get thinking about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to be aware of but Dreads giving you excitement feeling of reading. The article author conveys their point in specific way that can be understood by means of anyone who read the item because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having that Dreads instantly.

Kimberly Towe:

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone at everywhere. The information can be a know-how or any news even an issue. What people must be consider when those information which is within the former life are challenging to be find than now is taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one typically the resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you have it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen in you if you take Dreads as the daily resource information.

Jennifer Evans:

The reason why? Because this Dreads is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will distress you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such wonderful way makes the content inside of easier to

understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book have got such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I were you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

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