



What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America

By Tavis Smiley



Download



Read Online

What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America By Tavis Smiley

 Get Print Book

From the man who catapulted the *Covenant with Black America* to number one on the *New York Times* bestseller list comes a searing memoir of poverty, ambition, pain and atonement.

Tavis Smiley grew up in a family of thirteen in rural Indian, where money was scarce and the sight of other black faces even scarcer. Always an outsider because of his race, economic background, and Pentecostal religious beliefs, he was sustained by his family's love. But one day his world was shattered when his father brutally beat him, sending him to the hospital and then into foster care for a period of time. In *What I Know for Sure*, Smiley recounts how he overcame his painful history and became one of America's most popular media figures.



[Download What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in Am ...pdf](#)



[Read Online What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in ...pdf](#)

What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America

By Tavis Smiley

What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America By Tavis Smiley

From the man who catapulted the *Covenant with Black America* to number one on the *New York Times* bestseller list comes a searing memoir of poverty, ambition, pain and atonement.

Tavis Smiley grew up in a family of thirteen in rural Indian, where money was scarce and the sight of other black faces even scarcer. Always an outsider because of his race, economic background, and Pentecostal religious beliefs, he was sustained by his family's love. But one day his world was shattered when his father brutally beat him, sending him to the hospital and then into foster care for a period of time. In *What I Know for Sure*, Smiley recounts how he overcame his painful history and became one of America's most popular media figures.

What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America By Tavis Smiley Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #597573 in Books
- Brand: Smiley, Tavis/ Ritz, David (CON)
- Published on: 2008-01-08
- Released on: 2008-01-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.95" h x .61" w x 5.22" l, .44 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 272 pages

 [Download What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in Am ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America By Tavis Smiley

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Talk show host, force behind *The Covenant with Black America* and entrepreneur, Smiley begins his life story in self-improvement and moves through self-empowerment into self-aggrandizement. After a Pentecostal upbringing in an Indiana trailer park in the early 1970s, he first tasted success in the "ultra white culture" of his high school, attended Indiana University and landed an internship with Los Angeles mayor Tom Bradley through sheer "chutzpah." After running for city council, he broke into radio, becoming "a household name in black America" and receiving "a compensation package for a half-million dollars, the biggest in BET history." But these vignettes serve merely as a platform for homilies and score settling that reach back to a college teacher, his controversial breaks with BET and later NPR. Following his mama's dictum to look for the "lesson and a blessing in everything we go through," Smiley learns from President Clinton that one "need not be intimidated by anyone, even when that person is the most powerful man in the world." Young adult readers may be reassured by the angst in Smiley's life before he hits the big time. The rest of his fans know what to expect—including the plugs for Smiley enterprises at the end. (*Oct. 10*) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Booklist](#)

Readers will likely be particularly interested in the popular radio and television talk show host's account of his clash with media titan Bob Johnson, who fired Smiley from his position at BET, and his clash with National Public Radio, where he felt he was a token given little room for growth. Although Smiley recounts those controversies, the heart of this book is his experience growing up, rooted in a religiously fundamentalist family, sheltered from and fearful of the world. Smiley was part of an extended family of 10 in a small town in Indiana where blacks were fairly scarce. A beating received from a truly loving father, based on a misunderstanding with the head of the church, set up a psychological estrangement that haunted Smiley and propelled him to succeed. He directed his energies into academic achievement through high school, Indiana State University, and Harvard Law School. A fortuitous internship lead Smiley to the world of the media. This surprisingly thoughtful book emphasizes old-school values and the rewards of hard work. *Vanessa Bush*

Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Review

"Engaging and compelling. . . . A down-home tale of how one survives, learns and grows in a discordant world into something bigger and better." —*Los Angeles Times* "A remarkable memoir about one of America's most popular media figures." —*Ebony* "Astounding." —*Philadelphia Inquirer* "Revealing. . . . May surprise even those fans who have followed his career for years." —*Essence*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Emma Anderson:

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make these individuals survives, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated it for a while is

reading. That's why, by reading a reserve your ability to survive enhance then having chance to stay than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading a book, we give you this kind of What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America book as beginning and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

James Jernigan:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition info. Even you love What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America, you may enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

Rose Duprey:

You can spend your free time to read this book this reserve. This What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America is simple bringing you can read it in the park your car, in the beach, train along with soon. If you did not get much space to bring often the printed book, you can buy the e-book. It is make you much easier to read it. You can save the particular book in your smart phone. Consequently there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

Richard Rodriguez:

Do you like reading a e-book? Confuse to looking for your selected book? Or your book seemed to be rare? Why so many concern for the book? But almost any people feel that they enjoy with regard to reading. Some people likes studying, not only science book but also novel and What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America or others sources were given knowledge for you. After you know how the truly amazing a book, you feel need to read more and more. Science publication was created for teacher or even students especially. Those publications are helping them to increase their knowledge. In different case, beside science reserve, any other book likes What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America to make your spare time a lot more colorful. Many types of book like here.

Download and Read Online What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America By Tavis Smiley #V2MGICD3UT5

Read What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America By Tavis Smiley for online ebook

What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America By Tavis Smiley Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America By Tavis Smiley books to read online.

Online What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America By Tavis Smiley ebook PDF download

What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America By Tavis Smiley Doc

What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America By Tavis Smiley Mobipocket

What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America By Tavis Smiley EPub