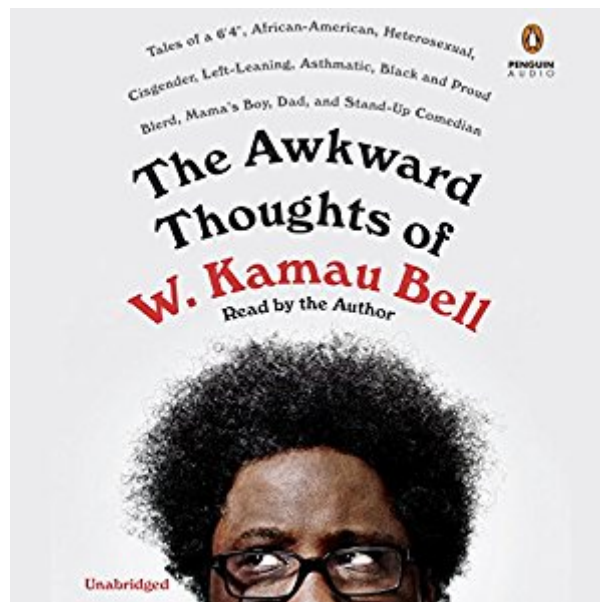


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# The Awkward Thoughts Of W. Kamau Bell: Tales Of A 6' 4", African American, Heterosexual, Cisgender, Left-Leaning, Asthmatic, Black And Proud Blerd, Mama's Boy, Dad, And Stand-Up Comedian



## Synopsis

You may know W. Kamau Bell from his new Emmy-nominated hit show on CNN, *United Shades of America*. Or maybe you've read about him in *The New York Times*, which called him "the most promising new talent in political comedy in many years." Or maybe from *The New Yorker* fawning over his brand of humor writing: "Bell's gimmick is intersectional progressivism: he treats racial, gay, and women's issues as inseparable." After all this love and praise, it's time for the next step: a book. *The Awkward Thoughts of W. Kamau Bell* is a humorous, well-informed take on the world today, tackling a wide range of issues, such as race relations; fatherhood; the state of law enforcement today; comedians and superheroes; right-wing politics; left-wing politics; failure; his interracial marriage; white men; his upbringing by very strong-willed, race-conscious, yet ideologically opposite parents; his early days struggling to find his comedic voice, then his later days struggling to find his comedic voice; why he never seemed to fit in with the black comedy scene...or the white comedy scene; how he was a black nerd way before that became a thing; how it took his wife and an East Bay lesbian to teach him that racism and sexism often walk hand in hand; and much, much more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

W. Kamau Bell has woven a complex tapestry of essays from his life experiences. Keenly witty and perceptive, they run the gamut from poignant to downright funny. I had never heard of this guy until last year when CNN heavily promoted his TV series. A hybrid of standup comedy and on the road interviews (one with KKK folks), all were amazing tales of Americana today. Naturally, a fan such

as myself welcomed the book, but strangers are certain to find it equally engaging and instructive. It is high time for everyone to meet W. Kamau Bell.

This book is a good example of why bookstores must continue to exist. This is NOT a book I would normally read. I came across it in the bookstore and picked it up out of curiosity. I have no idea who W. Kamau Bell is, but I found myself sitting in the bookstore cafe deep into the book and realized I had to buy it-- well, I order to eBook on . Our lives have some crazy parallels. Reading this book is as if a friend is telling a story, we both were there, and I am like: Wait a minute, that isn't exactly right. For example, I 100% relate to the story of nerdiness and sports, but when he tells the story of going to college football games in Mobile I am like REALLY? I went to college in Mobile, and there was no college football to be found in Mobile until more recently when the University of South Alabama finally got a team. But to me, that adds to the relatability of the story. You are sitting with a friend who is telling a story where you both were there. Suddenly, you frown up your face and say: Wait a minute, wait a minute! You are beginning to embellish this story a bit. And if a writer came make you remember being there with him, WOW! A must read!!

I am grateful for the authentic (and hilariously awkward!) way W. Kamau Bell shares his experience, perspective, and wit to offer each of us a lifeline to recognizing where we are #asleep and to ways we can be better people with each other. I want more! p.s. I love his self proclamation of being a "blerd" - read the book to find out more!

W. Kamau Bell is one of this country's funniest and most intelligent, nuanced thinkers (and now writers!) on race. You may know him from the W. Kamau Bell Curve, Totally Biased, and now CNN's United Shades of America. He makes his viewers (and now his readers) think hard, feel uncomfortable and then laugh their faces off. While learning important stuff. Now he's put it all down in this book. I was inspired reading about his parents (HOW DID HE GET LIKE THIS?) especially his mom, the brilliant Janet Cheatham Bell and other behind-the-scenes stories. As usual, he's hilarious and also heartbreaking in illuminating the everyday racism of this country. He's not afraid to show all the things HE's learned about along the way, (\*cough\* sexism) which makes this even that much more appealing. Bravo, Kamau!

I did get a chance to read this book as soon as it came and I really like everything W. Kamau Bell said. He did a great deal of work trying to become a stand-up comedian and he is one now. From

watching his CNN TV show for the last two summers I can tell what a wonderful man he is and he can get along with anybody. Not many can say that.

Love this book. Very interesting, witty, thoughtful, eye opening in so many ways. Funny, but some of his struggles are so familiar to me as a WF. Like white men telling you the sky is orange, when you know it's not.

I love his show on TV. His writing sometimes goes a little too "out there" on the ranty side, but I guess that is his approach, which I admire while at the same time finding it a little bit irritating.

Initially, I was distracted by the run on parentheticals. I got deeper into the story, and I felt like the narrative grew in depth and complexity with the journey Bell told. Self-effacing, self-reflective. He brings his readers along with him as he grew as a person, as his analysis deepened, and as his commitment to himself, his family, and to improving the world evolved. I am glad to have read this and am taking his call to action seriously.

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