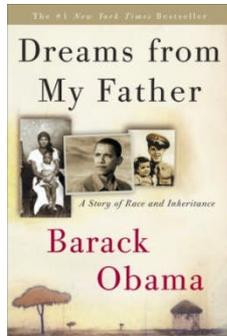


## the one page book review



**Title:** Dreams of my Father  
**Author:** Barack Obama  
**Publisher:** Cannon Gate  
**Price:** £8.99

After a year in office and an almost immediate turnaround in the nations favour Barack Obama has a great deal to live up to. More than the usual politician's promises and policies, the first black president of the most prominent county in the world held the trust, desires and dreams of a nation. So, apart from the amazing use of social networking and viral marketing throughout his presidential campaign what brought this man to this position?

'Dreams of My Father' was written by Obama during his time at Harvard Law School and charts the route of the internal battle to establish who he was, how he fitted into the world and what he was destined to do.

The son of a prominent yet absent African father and an American mother, whose values and beliefs were predominantly born from his grandparents who provided the family security and stability throughout his youth.

The honest account of his early work in Chicago, working for a non-profit business as a community organiser in the Altgeld Gardens housing project on the city's South Side, gave first-hand experience of depravation, poverty and hope. The politics of getting things done and financing change at a local level possibly influencing his unpopular Health Reform that opposition have suggested will cause the end of his presidency.

While the argument of "are leaders born or made" rolls on, in this book Obama describes his personal experiences and the choices he made along the way.

To achieve recognition as the world leader who delivered social change he will need to do more than sell his vision at election and hold onto it while opposition is so huge, I'm looking forward to gaining insight through his second book "The Audacity of Hope" of what drives his 'thoughts of reclaiming the American Dream'.