

[E-BOOK] A Reason to Believe: Lessons from an Improbable Life

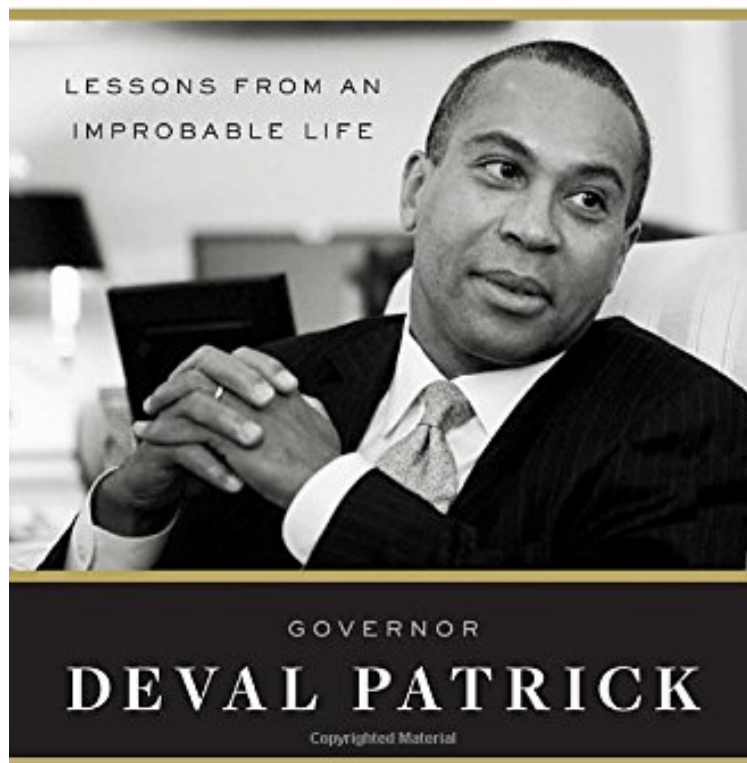
A Reason to Believe: Lessons from an Improbable Life

Deval Patrick

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A REASON to BELIEVE



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Deval Patrick : A Reason to Believe: Lessons from an Improbable Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Reason to Believe: Lessons from an Improbable Life:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Deval Patrick's early life is covered in great detail but his time as an executive for various ...By Christopher B. Kroh A Reason to Believe is not your typical biography. Deval Patrick's early life is covered in great detail but his time as an executive for various companies, his work for the Justice Department, and his time as Governor is only briefly covered leaving you wondering how this or that particular

opportunity came about and what experience he gained from each. The strength though of this biography is in the stories and their accompanying message. He (and his family) has led an interesting life and his prose connects with the reader instilling hope by demonstrating that there is good and decency in most people and that we each have talents and strengths that can be used to help others. I especially enjoyed his stories about living abroad in Africa. You come away appreciating his sincerity, well-rounded experience, and hopeful outlook toward his fellow human beings. This is not your typical here is what I think and you should consider me as I pursue higher office kind of biography but rather a story filled with valuable lessons and one many can relate to. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Another reason to believe! By Sharline N "When Governor Patrick signed my copy saying, "To Sharline, With High Hopes, Deval Patrick," I didn't realize the magnitude of that statement until I read the book. This public servant, history maker and first black Governor of Massachusetts humbly takes you on his journey from impoverished South-side Chicago to the Massachusetts Statehouse in such a humble tone, never failing to recognize and acknowledge the people on whose shoulders he stood. The lessons he learned are carefully etched on his heart and from the abundance of his heart, he cheers you on, gives you hope and makes you realize that you too can make it because he did. And his, was truly an improbable life. So when he says he has high hopes for me, I cannot help but work hard to make him proud. And I am just one of thousands he has cheered on, given hope and a reason to believe. It is a must read!!! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book, great man By smklaw In the jaded world of politics, it is nice to know that men like this still exist and are still fighting for what is right. His rise to the top and his appreciation for those people who helped him along the way is inspiring. Struggling to fit in at times in a world where he could have easily given up and accepted that he did not belong, Governor Patrick found "a reason to believe" in himself, and his story will make you believe in yourself, in each other and in our country. Irrespective of your politics, you will enjoy this book.

I've simply seen too much goodness in this country and have come so far in my own journey not to believe in those ideals, and my faith in the future is sometimes restored under the darkest clouds. Governor Deval Patrick In January 2007, Deval Patrick became the first black governor of the state of Massachusetts, one of only two black governors elected in American history. But that was just one triumphant step in a long, improbable journey that began in a poor tenement on the South Side of Chicago. From a chaotic childhood to an elite boarding school in New England, from a sojourn doing relief work in Africa to the boardrooms of Fortune 500 companies, and then to a career in politics, Patrick has led an extraordinary life. In this heartfelt and inspirational book, he pays tribute to the family, friends, and strangers who, through words and deeds, have instilled in him transcendent lessons of faith, perseverance, and friendship. In doing so, he reminds us of the power of community and the imperative of idealism. With humility, humor, and grace, he offers a road map for attaining happiness, empowerment, and success while also making an appeal for readers to cultivate those achievements in others, to feel a greater stake in this world, and to shape a life worth living. Warm, nostalgic, and inspirational, *A Reason to Believe* is destined to become a timeless tribute to a uniquely American odyssey and a testament to what is possible in our lives and our communities if we are hopeful, generous, and resilient. GOVERNOR DEVAL PATRICK is donating a portion of the proceeds from *A REASON TO BELIEVE* to A Better Chance, a national organization dedicated to opening the doors to greater educational opportunities for young people of color. To learn more, visit www.abetterchance.org.

[*A Reason to Believe*] . . . introduces Patrick to a national audience as an inspirational figure guided by optimism and hope who presaged the rise of President Obama. The Boston Globe Patrick shows himself here to be a gifted writer. Especially engrossing are the early pages on his childhood he summons forth all the senses as he describes 1950s/60s South Side Chicago. . . Patrick presents his triumphs here as victories over his own weaknesses. His writings about his wife, Diane, are particularly touching. VERDICT Recommended to readers of memoir and to all keeping an eye on our country's past and future. Library Journal Governor Patrick's compelling story is a reminder that no matter how unlikely a child's future chances might seem on paper, sometimes access to the right opportunities is all it takes to allow the enormous talent and potential that is already there to thrive. *A Reason to Believe* is rich with the lessons Deval Patrick has learned along his journey. -Marian Wright Edelman, President, Children's Defense Fund Patrick gives powerful voice to the reflective inner man who has a keen eye for things that really matter A welcome celebration of idealism in a cynical time. Kirkus's Patrick pays specific and warm tribute to those who helped him, from Chicago public school teachers and elite boarding school masters to families and individuals who gave him shelter, support, and assistance in Africa to an assortment of family, friends, and strangers who encouraged and assisted him, fortifying his sense of social justice, faith, and idealism. Booklist This remarkable, uplifting memoir is powerful evidence that the American dream still exists. Patrick tells his extraordinary life story with eloquence, grace, and humor, moving skillfully from start to finish between a child's tender voice and an adult's perspective. Doris Kearns Goodwin, Pulitzer Prizewinning historian and author of *Team of Rivals* This fascinating story represents a testament against the self-fulfilling cynicism that increasingly infects the American view of American politics a testament against stupidity, a testament for honorable public service. Tracy Kidder, Pulitzer Prizewinning author of *Strength in What Remains* and

Mountains Beyond Mountains As the first black governor of Massachusetts, and as only the second African American to be elected governor in the United States, Deval Patrick is a history-making, pathbreaking figure in our state and national life. With a tremendous record of accomplishment personally, professionally, and politically, he has reason to be immodest! But what we hear instead in this moving account of this good mans life is a voice of reason and moderation. In these turbulent times, Patrick provides us with a model of public service and a public spirit. He is an inspiration to all of us, on both sides of the aisle. Henry Louis Gates Jr., Alphonse Fletcher University Professor, Harvard University There is no more inspiring story or more compelling storyteller in American politics today than Deval Patrick. And in this moving memoir, he shares the lesson of a life well lived: Hope for the best, and work for it. David Axelrod I met Deval Patrick in the Spring of 1980 at Harvard Law School. I realized quickly that he was a remarkable person confident, compassionate, and a wonderful listener. He combined a youthful energy with a sense of wisdom and balance that belied his youth. A Reason to Believe describes the unique set of experiences both difficult and uplifting that have forged this important and historic public servant. Governor Patricks book offers hope to anyone that adversity can be overcome and pain turned into perspective. It also provides a clear-eyed defense of idealism that is rooted in a basic value everyone has something important to offer the world and the responsibility to do so. Tim Kaine, chairman of the Democratic National Committee About the Author Governor Deval Patrick was born in Chicago in 1956. After junior high school, he received a scholarship to attend Milton Academy in Massachusetts, and from there he graduated from Harvard College and Harvard Law School. He has worked as an attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and was later appointed, by President Clinton, as the assistant attorney general for civil rights. Governor Patrick has also been general counsel at Texaco and Coca-Cola. In 2010, he began his second term as governor of Massachusetts.