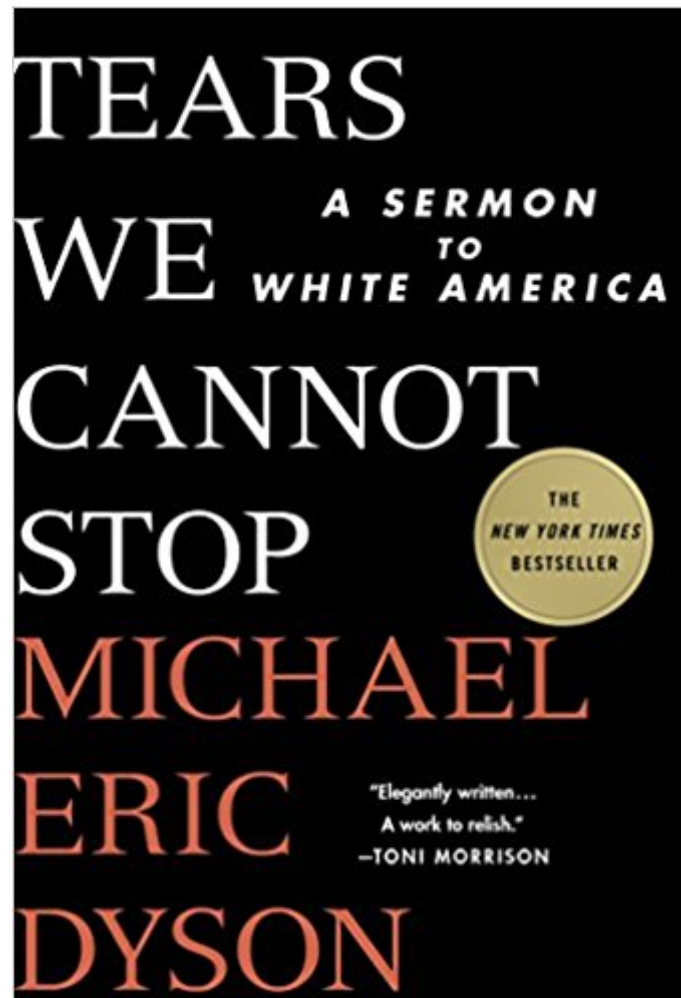




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# Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon To White America



## Synopsis

NOW A NEW YORK TIMES, PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY, INDIEBOUND, LOS ANGELES TIMES, WASHINGTON POST, CHRONICLE HERALD, SALISBURY POST, GUELPH MERCURY TRIBUNE, AND BOSTON GLOBE BESTSELLER | NAMED A BEST/MOST ANTICIPATED BOOK OF 2017 BY: The Washington Post • Bustle • Men's Journal • The Chicago Reader • StarTribune • Blavity • The Guardian • NBC New York's Bill's Books • "One of the most frank and searing discussions on race ... a deeply serious, urgent book, which should take its place in the tradition of Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time* and King's *Why We Can't Wait*." • The New York Times Book Review Toni Morrison hails *Tears We Cannot Stop* as "Elegantly written and powerful in several areas: moving personal recollections; profound cultural analysis; and guidance for moral redemption. A work to relish." Stephen King says: "Here's a sermon that's as fierce as it is lucid. If you're black, you'll feel a spark of recognition in every paragraph. If you're white, Dyson tells you what you need to know • what this white man needed to know, at least. This is a major achievement. I read it and said amen." Short, emotional, literary, powerful • *Tears We Cannot Stop* is the book that all Americans who care about the current and long-burning crisis in race relations will want to read. As the country grapples with racist division at a level not seen since the 1960s, one man's voice soars above the rest with conviction and compassion. In his 2016 New York Times op-ed piece "Death in Black and White," Michael Eric Dyson moved a nation. Now he continues to speak out in *Tears We Cannot Stop* • a provocative and deeply personal call for change. Dyson argues that if we are to make real racial progress we must face difficult truths, including being honest about how black grievance has been ignored, dismissed, or discounted. "The time is at hand for reckoning with the past, recognizing the truth of the present, and moving together to redeem the nation for our future. If we don't act now, if you don't address race immediately, there very well may be no future."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

View larger Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America Beloved, the deed has been done. We haveÃ¢â¬ since that &#039;we&#039; must contain, by virtue of our system of government, if not the will, then at least the implied consent, of even the people who opposed with all their souls the choice you madeÃ¢â¬ elected Donald J. Trump as president of the United States of America. Please take measure of every phrase in that sentence. Whether he wishes to be or not, Donald Trump is the epitome, not only of white innocence and white privilege, but of white power, white rage, and yes, even of white supremacy. The greatly stepped-up harassment of people of color, and Muslims, and immigrants in the wake of TrumpÃ¢â¬s election points to the sea change in our naked tolerance for such assaults, in the permission granted to diabolical forces that rob us even more of comity and support of the commonweal. Donald Trump harms our nationÃ¢â¬s positive racial future. Yet, beloved, there remains, after all, the blackness that is prophecy, the blackness that is inexplicable hope in the face of savage hopelessness. Beloved, if the enslaved could nurture, on the vine of their desperate deficiency of democracy, the spiritual and moral fruit that fed our civilization, then surely we can name and resist demagoguery; we can protest, and somehow defeat, the forces that threaten the soul of our nation. To not try, to give up on the possibility that we can make a difference, can make the difference, is to give up on our past, on our complicated, difficult, but victorious past. Donald Trump is not our final, or ultimate, problem. The problem is, instead, allowing hopelessness to steal our joyful triumph before we work hard enough to achieve it. Ã¢â¬ Michael Eric Dyson. December 2016.

"Anguish and hurt throb in every word of Michael Eric Dyson's Tears We Cannot Stop...It is eloquent, righteous, and inspired...Often lyrical, Tears is not...without indignation...brilliance and rectitude." âThe Philadelphia Inquirer"Dyson...creates a sermon unlike any we've heard or read, and it's right on time...an unapologetically bold plea for America to own up to its inexplicable identity anxiety." âEssence"[Dyson's] narrative voice carries a deeper and more intimate authority, as it grows from his own experience as a black man in America â from being beaten by his father to

being profiled by the police to dealing with his brother's long-term incarceration...Dyson's raw honesty and self-revelation enables him to confront his white audience and reach out to them."

•The Chicago Tribune"Be ready to pause nearly every other sentence, absorb what is said, and prepare for action. Tears We Cannot Stop is meant to change your thinking."

•The Miami Times"[Tears We Cannot Stop] talks directly to you, about issues deep, disturbing, and urgently in need of being faced."

•Philly.com"One of the most frank and searing discussions on race ... a deeply serious, urgent book, which should take its place in the tradition of Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time* and King's *Why We Can't Wait*."

•The New York Times Book Review (Editor's Choice)"Impassioned."

•Library Journal"Readers will find searing moments in *Tears We Cannot Stop*, when Dyson's words proves unforgettable...But more than education, Dyson wants a reckoning."

•The Washington Post"Dyson lays bare our conscience, then offers redemption through our potential change."

•Booklist"If you read Michael Eric Dyson's New York Times op-ed piece "Death in Black and White," then you know what a powerful work of cultural analysis his book, *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America* is going to be. At a time when everyone needs to speak more openly, honestly, and critically about the racial divisions that have been allowed to grow in the United States, Dyson's book is available in January and could not be a more welcome read."

•Bustle"A hard-hitting sermon on the racial divide... The readership Dyson addresses may not fully be convinced, but it can hardly remain unmoved."

•Kirkus Reviews (Starred)"Elegantly written, *Tears We Cannot Stop* is powerful in several areas: moving personal recollections; profound cultural analysis; and guidance for moral redemption. A work to relish."

•Toni Morrison"Here is a sermon that is as fierce as it is lucid. It shook me up, but in a good way. This is how it works if you're black in America, this is what happens, and this is how it feels. If you're black, you'll feel a spark of recognition in every paragraph. If you're white, Dyson tells you what you need to know—what this white man needed to know, at least. This is a major achievement. I read it and said amen."

•Stephen King"Michael Eric Dyson is alive to the fierce urgency of now and yet he's full of felicitous contradictions: an intellectual who won't talk down to anyone; a man of God who eschews piousness; a truth-teller who is not afraid of doubt or nuance; a fighter whose arguments, though always to the point, are never ad hominem. We can and should be thankful we have a writer like Michael Eric Dyson in our midst."

•Dave Eggers, from the preface of *Can You Hear Me Now?*

MICHAEL ERIC DYSON is one of America's premier public intellectuals. He occupies the distinguished position of University Professor of Sociology at Georgetown University, is a

contributing opinion writer for the New York Times, and is a contributing editor of The New Republic and ESPN's The Undeclared. Ebony magazine named him one of the 100 Most Influential African Americans and one of the 150 most powerful blacks in the nation.

Half way through and getting a lot out of it, good read.

. . . . for anyone to work through, as we all have work to do on how we all get along better.

Everyone who is not a person of color should read this book ---Especially with what is going on today ---

Thank you Michael Eric Dyson

Great read.

Great book

Everyone in America should read this! We all need it, from the outwardly racist to those who deny being racist, while viewing people of color as less than the perceived white standard. Unfortunately, many have adopted the white standard as the right standard that everyone else is measured and judged by. This is not just a white problem, but a cause for much low self-esteem and lack of self-definition within the black community. The time has come for all of us to respect and love each other -to look at the content of our character, not the color of our skin as Martin Luther King, Jr. hoped for in America!

Great read. It gives a refreshing look at the way America really thinks and what can be done to right the ship

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