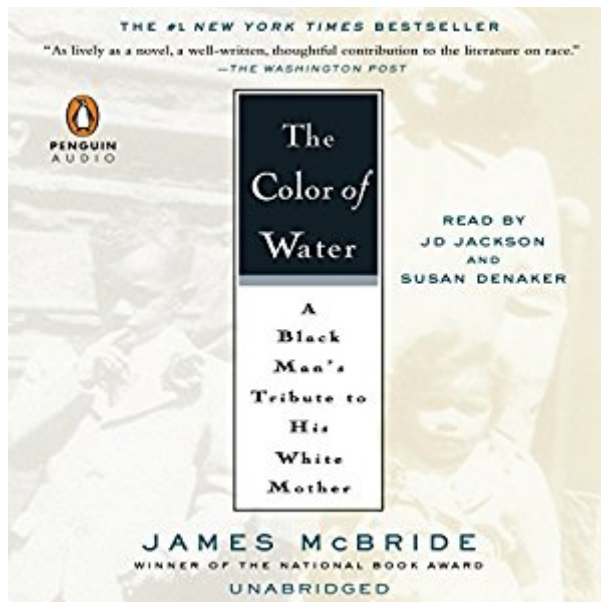


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# The Color Of Water



## Synopsis

The New York Times best-selling story from the author of *The Good Lord Bird*, winner of the 2013 National Book Award for Fiction. Who is Ruth McBride Jordan? A self-declared "light-skinned" woman evasive about her ethnicity, yet steadfast in her love for her 12 black children. James McBride, journalist, musician, and son, explores his mother's past, as well as his own upbringing and heritage, in a poignant and powerful debut, *The Color Of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*. The son of a black minister and a woman who would not admit she was white, James McBride grew up in "orchestrated chaos" with his 11 siblings in the poor, all-black projects of Red Hook, Brooklyn. In *The Color of Water*, McBride retraces his mother's footsteps and, through her searing and spirited voice, recreates her remarkable story. The daughter of a failed itinerant Orthodox rabbi, she was born Rachel Shilsky (actually Ruchel Dwara Zylska) in Poland on April 1, 1921. Fleeing pogroms, her family emigrated to America and ultimately settled in Suffolk, Virginia, a small town where anti-Semitism and racial tensions ran high. At 17, after fleeing Virginia and settling in New York City, Ruth married a black minister and founded the all-black New Brown Memorial Baptist Church in her Red Hook living room. "God is the color of water," Ruth McBride taught her children, firmly convinced that life's blessings and life's values transcend race. Interspersed throughout his mother's compelling narrative, McBride shares candid recollections of his own experiences as a mixed-race child of poverty, his flirtations with drugs and violence, and his eventual self-realization and professional success. *The Color of Water* touches listeners of all colors as a vivid portrait of growing up, a haunting meditation on race and identity, and a lyrical valentine to a mother from her son.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 8 hours 46 minutes

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Version: Unabridged

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Audible.com Release Date: September 25, 2014

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00NQAUZPG

Best Sellers Rank: #3 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Parent &

Adult Child #45 in [Kindle Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Reference](#) #54 in [Kindle Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Race Relations > Discrimination & Racism](#)

## Customer Reviews

It is my favorite book I read it 21 years ago and picked it again for my book club pickIt is an easy read switching chapters from the writers point of view on life race economic standing love compassion tribulations and his mothers point of viewIt deals with life religion family and most of all who we truly are both inside and outI highly recommend this book

One of the best books I have ever read. It had me interested, intrigued, laughing and at the end in tears. A truly moving story about a very special woman. I also loved the author's book, "The Good Lord Bird" and will be reading his book about James Brown next year (all read for part of my book group).

Wow, this book really opened my eyes to see life from a different view. It was well written, simple yet profound. I have given copies to my daughter and granddaughter to read. Recommend highly.

This was a very interesting book. My 16-year-old granddaughter read it and said Papa you have to read this and Iâfâcâ ââ am glad that I did.

Purchased for my grandson for school, and he likes the book.

Very interesting book! This read always kept me thinking about the next page even inbetween chapters. it is very informative & allows people understand the hardships of race & discrimination.

I enjoyed this book and it's heartfelt message of family, faith and identity. I read it along wiith my son who did so for a classroom assignment. We enjoyed discussing it before his written assignments and discussing the themes and pain through the passages. I felt invigorated at the end as well as inspired by Ruth's story. I also am grateful to have been introduced to McBride as an author. I will enjoy reading his other works now as well.

This book was recommended to me by a friend a few years ago, but I never read it, until now. He's right...it's all about love, and that love originates with God. Well done, sir!

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