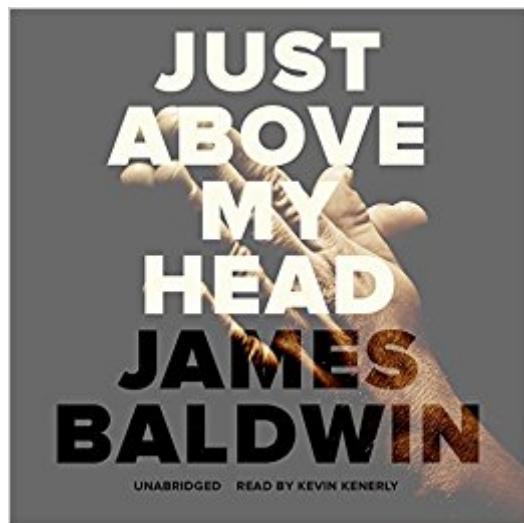


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# Just Above My Head



## Synopsis

A classic, deeply moving novel by James Baldwin, one of America's greatest twentieth-century authors. The stark grief of a brother mourning a brother opens this novel with a stunning, unforgettable experience. Here, in a monumental saga of love and rage, Baldwin goes back to Harlem, to the church of his groundbreaking novel *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, to the homosexual passion of *Giovanni's Room*, and to the political fire that inflames his nonfiction work. Here, too, the story of gospel singer Arthur Montana and his family becomes both a journey into another country of the soul and senses -- and a living contemporary history of black struggle in this land.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"If Van Gogh was our 19th-century artist-saint, James Baldwin is our 20th-century one." --Michael Ondaatje "The work of a born storyteller at the height of his powers...Ã Ã Ã glimpses of family life in Harlem, rapturous music-making in the churches, moments of uneasiness in even the most casual meetings between whites and blacks--scenes that Baldwin seems preternaturally gifted in understanding." --The New York Times Book Review "A fine novel...it seems impossible for [Baldwin] to write with anything other than eloquence.Ã Ã Ã His great and peculiar power is to re-create the maddening halfway house that the black man finds himself in late-twentieth-century America." --The New Yorker

The stark grief of a brother mourning a brother opens this novel with a stunning, unforgettable experience. Here, in a monumental saga of love and rage, Baldwin goes back to Harlem, to a

church of his groundbreaking novel *Go Tell It On The Mountain*, to the homosexual passion of *Giovanni's Room*, and to the political fire that enflames his nonfiction work. Here, too, the story of gospel singer Arthur Hall and his family becomes both a journey into another country of the soul and senses--and a living contemporary history of black struggle in this land."A work of passion... Glimpses of family life in Harlem, rapturous music-making in the churches, movements of uneasiness in even the most casual meetings between whites and blacks--scenes that Baldwin seems preternaturally gifted in understanding."--The New York Times Book Review."His great and peculiar power is to re-create the maddening halfway house that the black man finds himself in in late-twentieth century America." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I read this book many years ago, and lost it somewhere. Baldwin captured my attention when I was quite young, and I am getting back into his writing again. A cliche, but ...he is one of the finest American writers of the 20th century.

James Baldwin was a marvelous writer. Like Tennessee Williams in the theatre, as a novelist Baldwin was also a poet. In *JUST ABOVE MY HEAD*, his prose has a musical cadence that fits particularly well with the main plot line about a Black gay Gospel singer named Arthur Montana and his loving and protective family. Narrated in the first person by Arthur's older brother Hall, this is an epic story of a life fully lived, beginning in the period between World War II and Korea and continuing right through the horrors of the Civil Rights struggle of the Sixties. In addition to the Montana family, Baldwin peoples his novel with a large cast of vivid characters: Red, Crunch, and Peanut, who with Arthur form the first Gospel quartet to appear on the scene while Arthur is just fifteen, and the Miller family, friends of the Montanas whose nine-year-old daughter Julia is a child evangelist at the beginning of the story. Julia is one of the most fascinating female characters in Twentieth Century literature; starting out as a child preacher (and a spoiled brat at home), she endures the premature death of her mother and the horror of incest at the hands of her father, and even spends some time as a prostitute before finally making use of the fact that she grows up beautiful to become a successful model. Yet it is still Arthur who is the center of the story; while he never seems troubled by his sexuality, he does worry about being judged by those he loves; this makes accepting love something of a struggle for him. The miracle of this novel is that every character is fully fleshed out and given a complete back story, a rarity in a novel with such a large cast of characters. And this, coupled with Baldwin's soaring, lyrical narrative, makes *JUST ABOVE MY HEAD* a unique experience that will stay with you long after you read it.

I read this years ago and am re reading it.

This is a revisit for me to the life Author Montana as told by his older brother Hall . This second reading only certifies that James Baldwin was a master story teller .

I made an excellent decision to purchase this item through . It arrived in wonderful condition although I bought it used; and the seller wrote a detailed description citing that it had been part of an estate sale library. I made a clear decisison to trust . When the book arrived it was like Christmas in July! The paper cover was intact, the pages were clean, and the book had been well maintained throughout the years. I am extremely happy with 's overall committment to quality items for its consumers.

James Baldwin is an excellent author and this is a great book. The book arrived in perfect condition and I recommend this book and this seller to everyone.

Read anything from Baldwin. This is his longest novel, and it's worth it

Learning more about my favorite author.

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