

ABOUT THE BOOK

A young woman of color who grew up in the Southern United States, at a time when segregation was the law. They called it separate but equal. Yet through this process, generations of Black citizens were disenfranchised and rendered powerless. *Look! I Can Fly* chronicles how these segregationist laws relegated the poor, mostly Blacks, to jobs as aids, helpers, farm laborers and domestics at wages equal that of a third world country. As descendants of poor Black workers living the Southern US were expected to follow in their parents footsteps destined to live a life of servitude.

Look! I Can Fly is part 1 of D. J. Wilson's autobiography, and it begins the retelling of her life story. A life filled with disappointment, uncertainty, hardships, fear and violence. Part 1 of the story starts when she was three, and continues through the age of eighteen. With a bit of humor sprinkled throughout, she shares her most intimate experiences, living in a segregated society, being marginalized, and growing up in poverty. Also, this work tells about her experiences living with bullying, intimate partner violence and domestic terrorism. As well as, a first-hand account of other challenges and traumatic events that impacted her young life.

Inspiration for the book comes from her life as a child growing up in the midst of the turbulent 1950s through the early 1970s, and her exposure to traumatic events. Wilson carefully leads the reader through this awful period in time, and how the events affected her life. As it was marred with violence against peaceful protesters, private citizens, and political and civil rights leaders who supported equal rights for all citizens. Wilson masterfully weaved the spirit of the times into the story, in an effort, to give the reader a thorough look into the hearts and minds of families determined to live despite their circumstances.

Wilson shares how she found hope, learned perseverance, and how these spiritual gifts helped her overcome obstacles, traumatic events and experiences. Also, she writes about how growing in wisdom helped her find courage, which led to freedom, and the strength to make her own decisions about her life. This new found power helped her avoid following in her parents footsteps. Her story is compelling, and a must read about overcoming adversity.

As this this part of her story comes to a close, she hopes that the reader connect with some part of her story, and are able to live better as a result of it, do more, and choose kindness and respect. Because, "Life is not like in the movies, where you can write a Hollywood ending. For most people, life is like a thicket filled with thorns. You can accept the situation and stay stuck, or wake up each day determined to plow your way through it, one inch at a time," writes D. J. Wilson. The book, *Look! I Can Fly* is a riveting, spine-tingling, and thought-provoking true story about the power of hope and perseverance.