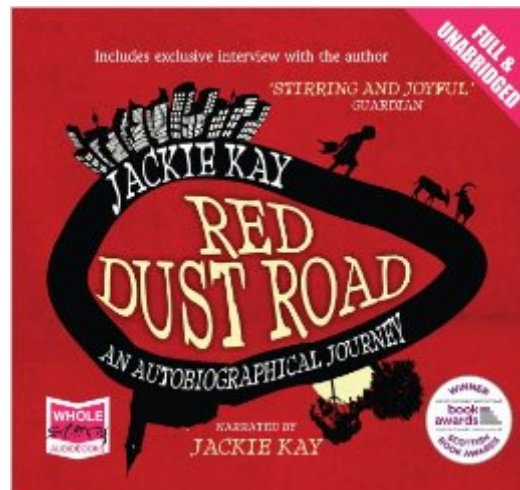


The book was found

Red Dust Road



Synopsis

From the moment when, as a little girl, she realises that her skin is a different colour from that of her beloved mum and dad, to the tracing and finding of her birth parents, her Highland mother and Nigerian father, the courageous revelatory journey that Jackie Kay undertakes in *Red Dust Road* is full of unexpected twists, turns and deep emotions. This recording is unabridged. Typically abridged audiobooks are not more than 60% of the author's work and as low as 30% with characters and plotlines removed.

Book Information

Audio CD: 7 pages

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Language: English

ISBN-10: 1407488481

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Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1 x 6.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #726,989 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in [Books > Books on CD >](#)

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Customer Reviews

This is a very moving story of a Scottish Poet Jackie Kay's 20-year journey/search for her biological parents & for her existence to be recognised by her biological parents titled "*Red Dust Road : A Biographical Journey*". Jackie Kay was adopted by a Scottish couple (John & Helen Kay) while she was a baby & brought up in Glasgow. As committed socialists, John & Helen Kay jumped at the chance they were given to adopt a mixed race child from a Nigerian student & a Scottish nurse (because of their lack of religious belief, they could only be allowed to adopt a mixed-race child). This stirring & joyful memoir starts in a rundown hotel in Nigeria where Jackie Kay meets her biological father who is a born-again Christian & faith healer : he prays & chants for two hours trying to cleanse her of his own past sin before refusing to acknowledge her existence publicly. Jackie Kay's several meetings with her biological mother was equally unsatisfactory & disappointing : she turned out to be a strange, nervous Mormon who believed adopted people ask to be adopted while they are still in their mother's womb! Growing up for Jackie Kay was not easy but John & Helen Kay

were extraordinarily vigilant & supportive of their adopted child as any good parents would. Despite the vagaries of DNA, Jackie Kay grew up as a happy child & this happiness shines through this biographical journey "Red Dust Road!" This is a very touching memoir that could make a very good movie, a highly recommended reading.

I found Red Dust Road to be beautiful, poetic, memorable, and moving. After hearing Jackie Kay read at the Franschhoek Literary Festival recently, I immediately bought her poetry and this memoir. It's moved me to tears, smiles and laughing-out-loud. She's honest, humble, witty, wry -- also brilliant; she's an academic, a chancellor of a university and an MBE. What a life. Too black in Glasgow, too white in Lagos, Kay shows the pain of prejudice, but tempers her story with humour and wit. A lovely read.

For one of my grad classes, I accidentally purchased this memoir instead of Jackie Kay's fiction, *Why Don't You Stop Talking?*. I thought, "I'll just read the first few pages as long as it's here." I read the first 30 pages in one sitting and didn't even realize how quickly the time had passed. With honesty, wit, and sarcasm, Kay's writes about the happy times and the sad. Her life is told in a series of chapters in sequence with her life, except for those that recall events which she thinks about at different points during her life, constantly reevaluating them and herself. I recommend Kay's memoir to anyone (ages 15-100!) who enjoys a well-written and truthful story by one of Britain's best female, contemporary writers (and poets).

I read this book after hearing Jackie Kay interviewed on a radio program and being affected by her warmth and humour. That warmth and humour abounded in the book which was an absolute pleasure to read. This is a memoir that brings together the green hills of the Scottish highlands and the red dust of an African village. I just wish it was twice as long, I loved it.

This was really a great book and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. it was not very long though, I finished in a week with just about 6 hours of reading. It was a pleasant insight into the life of an adopted person, but from a happy adoptive parenting situation. Would definitely recommend this lovely biography. The characters are interesting and, while the book jumps about a bit with periods of time, it was still easy to follow. Although an autobiography, it was not at all self absorbed, and you really spent more time learning about the family and people around Jackie, rather than all about her.

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