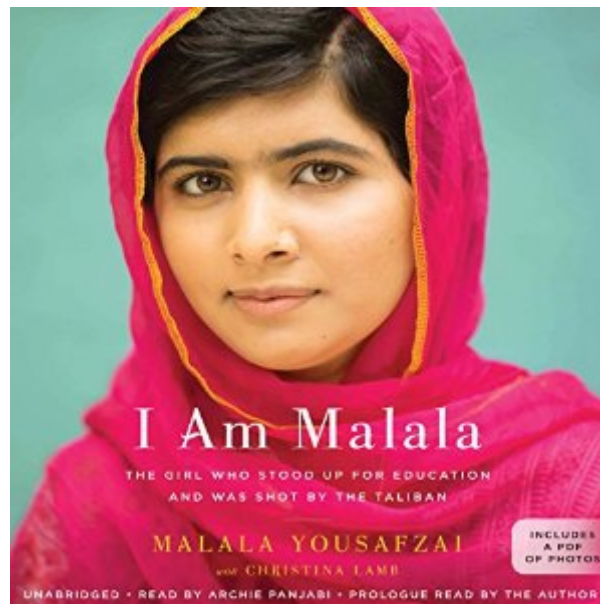


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# I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up For Education And Changed The World



## Synopsis

Audie Award Finalist, Biography/Memoir, 2014 When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize. I am Malala is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons. I am Malala will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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## Customer Reviews

My 11-year old son read this and was so touched and inspired by Malala's story. He normally only likes to read sci-fi, so I was shocked when he came back to me after reading the book with tears in his eyes, saying how grateful and inspired this book was for him. Nothing has ever moved him the way this story did. I highly recommend this story to any Tweens and teens. It is sure to inspire empathy and understanding.

I downloaded this book minutes after midnight on its first day, and 14 hrs later I have finished it cover to cover. I have been married to a Pakistani for 14 yrs, and have repeatedly asked my husband, "Why do the Pakistanis put up with this"...or that as situations have arisen over the yrs. The best answers I have gotten are the same mentioned in this book. Corruption & fear. It is so wonderful to see a father & his daughter take a stand for their right for something as simple as going to school that so many of us take for granted every day. Although I have never been to any of the 'villages' I have visited Pakistan once & was a bit surprised by the conditions in one of the larger cities. The Swat valley does sound beautiful thanks to the wonderful mental pictures I got from the very vivid text. It really is ashame that this area is no longer available for tourist, be they Pakistani or international. I also accompanied an in-law to a doctor's while in Pakistan, and as a retired RN, I am really amazed that Malala survived this ordeal. I have little doubt that it definitely was not her time to die no matter what the Taliban tried. God....Allah....must have other plans and no man will change that.

The story of Malala Yousafzai is remarkable in every way, and she is an amazing, courageous young lady. Her story is astounding; the circumstances that she was forced to live through, and her bravery and sense of purpose, brought world focus to the tragedies in her homeland. This reviewer recognizes the essential significance of the subject matter and the tremendous role model which Malala is, but the story itself was poorly written. In televised speeches, Malala is more compelling and has much more presence than this narrative provided her. The writing is extremely choppy, going backward and forward in time with confusing and unbalanced frequency. The narration is rambling throughout and repetitive in many places, It reads like a poorly edited young adult novel. Perhaps the desire to preserve Malala's recollections as closely as possible to her notes resulted in lack of editing? I read this book along with a team of teachers and four high school classes of students, and nearly everyone I worked with agreed that the story was outstanding, but the writing was so poor it made the book a difficult and frustrating read. Ironically, the newer, young adult version of this book is far superior in terms of structure and style, and is therefore much smoother and more readable. The YA edition is called **I AM MALALA: HOW ONE GIRL STOOD UP FOR EDUCATION AND CHANGED THE WORLD**. In my opinion, this YA edition is superior to its adult counterpart, and I recommend it highly. The YA version is co-authored by Patricia McCormick, an accomplished and decorated YA novelist (and a National Book Award finalist) who has written compelling novels on a number of tragic and realistic topics which affect young adults in various

parts of the world. Her influence in helping frame Malala's story is unmistakable and eliminates many of the pitfalls which the title being reviewed here was not able to avoid. This (adult) edition of *I AM MALALA* is a 5-star story with a 6-star heroine, but 2-star narrative writing.

If you have been following Malala Yousafzai's story in the news or if you saw her recent appearance on *The Daily Show* you probably know this sixteen-year-old is a true heroine. What you may wonder is if this book, written with Christina Lamb, stands on its own as a great reading experience. I'd say it does. The story of how Malala's Swat Valley was taken over by Taliban extremists, how she and her whole family had to live under the de facto rule of terrorists, was chilling. In the book we get to know her idealistic father and, a figure little written about in the news, her remarkable mother--a brave woman, religiously devout, unable to read, who lived her whole life up until recently in purdah. We also see the beauty of the Swat Valley through Malala's eyes. The cause of female education, of female empowerment, may well be the great cause of our time. You will read about it in this book, but also about Malala as a human being--intellectually competitive, surprisingly in touch with certain aspects of American popular culture yet living a very different life from girls in Western societies--a patriot, a Muslim believer, and very, very brave. It is worth reading this book just to encounter her. A parenthetical note--the Kindle edition has surprisingly good color photos of Malala and her family (seen on a Kindle Fire).

Wonderful, informative read. It was fully accessible to my 3rd-grader as a read-aloud, and we were thrilled to be reading it when the announcement came that she'd won this year's Nobel Peace Prize. The text is clear and engaging, and the photos are beautiful and informative, too. I've heard a few brief interviews with Malala, and her voice comes through loud and clear in the text. Both mother and son came away with a new appreciation for struggles others face in the world.

This book is an inspirational read, for everyone, but particularly for young girls. It reminds us how critical it is to support women around the world as they fight for their right to get an education. As an aside, I also saw her interview on the *Daily Show* today. Talk about poise, strength and courage--she personifies all three of these qualities like no one else! I will use the word again, for the second time in this review, both both the author and her book-- Inspirational!

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