

# Precious

*By Sapphire*

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**Precious** By Sapphire

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Precious Jones, an illiterate sixteen-year-old, has up until now been invisible to the father who rapes her and the mother who batters her and to the authorities who dismiss her as just one more of Harlem's casualties. But when Precious, pregnant with a second child by her father, meets a determined and radical teacher, we follow her on a journey of education and enlightenment as she learns not only how to write about her life, but how to make it truly her own for the first time.

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## **Precious By Sapphire Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #30438 in Audible
- Published on: 2009-10-20
- Format: Unabridged
- Original language: English
- Running time: 308 minutes

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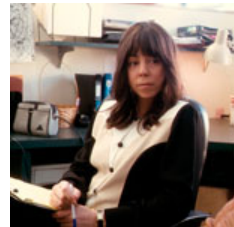
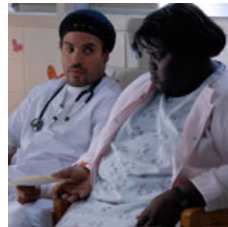
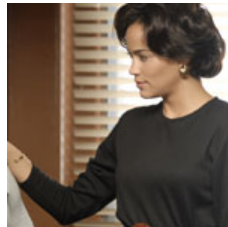
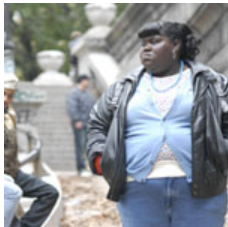
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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

Claireece Precious Jones endures unimaginable hardships in her young life. Abused by her mother, raped by her father, she grows up poor, angry, illiterate, fat, unloved and generally unnoticed. So what better way to learn about her than through her own, halting dialect. That is the device deployed in the first novel by poet and singer Sapphire. "Sometimes I wish I was not alive," Precious says. "But I don't know how to die. Ain' no plug to pull out. 'N no matter how bad I feel my heart don't stop beating and my eyes open in the morning." An intense story of adversity and the mechanisms to cope with it.

*Precious* is now a major motion picture based on the novel *Push* by Sapphire, starring Gabourey 'Gabby' Sidibe, Mo'Nique, Paula Patton, Mariah Carey, and Lenny Kravitz. Enjoy these images from the film, and click the thumbnails to see larger images.



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#### From Publishers Weekly

With this much anticipated first novel, told from the point of view of an illiterate, brutalized Harlem teenager, Sapphire (*American Dreams*), a writer affiliated with the Nuyorican poets, charts the psychic damage of the most ghettoized of inner-city inhabitants. Obese, dark-skinned, HIV-positive, bullied by her sexually abusive mother, Claireece, Precious Jones is, at the novel's outset, pregnant for the second time with her father's child. (Precious had her first daughter at 12, named Little Mongo, "short for Mongoloid Down Sinder, which is what she is; sometimes what I feel I is. I feel so stupid sometimes. So ugly, worth nuffin.") Referred to a pilot program by an unusually solicitous principal, Precious comes under the experimental pedagogy of a lesbian miracle worker named, implausibly enough, Blue Rain. Under her angelic mentorship, Precious, who has never before experienced real nurturing, learns to voice her long suppressed feelings in a journal. As her language skills improve, she finds sustenance in writing poetry, in friendships and in support groups—one for "insect" survivors and one for HIV-positive teens. It is here that Sapphire falters, as her slim and harrowing novel, with its references to Harriet Tubman, Langston Hughes and *The Color Purple* (a parallel the author hints at again and again), becomes a conventional, albeit dark and unresolved, allegory about redemption. The ending, composed of excerpts from the journals of Precious's classmates, lends heightened realism and a wider scope to the narrative, but also gives it a quality of incompleteness. Sapphire has created a remarkable heroine in Precious, whose first-person street talk is by turns blisteringly savvy, rawly lyrical, hilariously pig-headed and wrenchingly vulnerable. Yet that voice begs to be heard in a larger novel of more depth and complexity. 150,000 first printing; first serial to the *New Yorker*; audio rights to Random; foreign rights sold to England, France, Germany, Holland, Portugal and Brazil. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

#### From Library Journal

It does not get much worse than 16-year-old Precious Johnson's life. Illiterate, physically and sexually abused by both parents, and impregnated for the second time by her father?her first child has Down syndrome?she is outraged when she is suspended from her Harlem middle school. It is this suspension, however, that offers hope as Precious enrolls in an alternative program, learns to read and write, and begins a journal that both chronicles her disturbing life and becomes her outlet against the brutality and confusion she endures. The language is raw, and the situations are graphic enough to elicit an occasional cringe on the listener's part. Precious's story rings so true and Sapphire's reading is so realistic that listeners are compelled to persevere to the end. Highly recommended.?Susan McCaffrey, Sturgis Pub. Sch. Lib., Mich.  
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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Jane Riley:**

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important for all of us. The book Precious ended up being making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It is very advantages for you. The publication Precious is not only giving you far more new information but also to become your friend when you truly feel bored. You can spend your own personal spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship with the book Precious. You never really feel lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

#### **Stacey Smith:**

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#### **Kate Sutton:**

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