



Huey: Spirit of the Panther

By David Hilliard



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Raised in poverty in Oakland, California, and named for corrupt Louisiana governor Huey P. Long, Newton embodied both the passions and the contradictions of the civil rights movement he sought to advance. In this first authorized biography, Newton's former chief of staff David Hilliard teams up with best-selling authors Keith and Kent Zimmerman to tell the *whole* story of the man behind the organization that FBI director J. Edgar Hoover infamously dubbed "the greatest threat to the internal security of the country."

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Though essentially a civil rights organization, the Black Panther Party continues to evoke images of gun-wielding black men clashing with law enforcement officials. In the first authorized biography written about the Party's founder, Huey Newton (1942–1989), the authors shatter those images by expounding on the ideals upon which the party was formed. Frustrated by the civil rights organizations mired in "intellectualizing and rhetoric," Newton formed the BPP in Oakland, Calif., in 1966. His manifesto called upon blacks to demand freedom, adequate housing and educational opportunities, and to "defend their own people with their lives." Those affiliated with the BPP soon became targets for police surveillance and harassment. According to Hilliard, when Newton realized that the BPP was becoming isolated from the black community, which viewed the organization as an ad hoc military group, he began creating various community "survival programs," among them a student-centered school that attracted international education officials. Newton's dichotomous nature is evident throughout the book, yet only in the last chapters is the extent of his inner turmoil addressed. His cause of death offers proof of this: he denounced drugs yet became addicted to crack and died at the hands of a drug dealer. Hilliard offers a highly readable, if hagiographic, introduction to Newton's life and the BPP's ideology. His own memoir, *This Side of Glory* (1993), described his years as the BPP's chief of staff. Photos. (Jan.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Hilliard, chief of staff of the Black Panther Party, debunks the image of the gun-toting, violence-prone Newton immortalized in posters from the era. This is a sympathetic portrait of a young man, weary of debates about social injustice, who, along with Bobby Seale, started the Panthers in an effort to offer real solutions to oppressive social conditions, including police brutality. Newton, a somewhat shy intellectual, was as much inclined to use the law as the gun, wielding law books at every encounter with the police. The price Newton paid for his image was a long incarceration and a temporary exile in Cuba while the Panthers went on to develop local programs and international fame, always under the scrutiny of the FBI, which operated a series of counterintelligence programs, exploiting fissures in the group that eventually destroyed its leaders. Paranoid of the police and his own compatriots—notably Eldridge Cleaver—and unable to find a place for himself in a changing urban culture, Newton succumbed to drug abuse and was killed on the Oakland streets that he once ruled. *Vanessa Bush*

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About the Author

As chief of staff of the Black Panther Party, David Hilliard was actively involved in every major activity of the best-recognized and most feared African-American organization of the 1960s and '70s. He is the author of "This Side of Glory," a memoir that tells the story of his involvement in the Black Panthers, and the coeditor, with Don Weise, of "The Huey P. Newton Reader."

Keith and Kent Zimmerman are coauthors of the international best-seller "Rotten: No Irish, No Blacks, No Dogs" with former Sex Pistols frontman Johnny Rotten; "Sing My Way Home: Voices of the New American Roots Rock"; and the New York Times best-seller "Hell's Angel: The Life and Times of Sonny Barger and the Hell's Angels Motorcycle Club." The Zimmermans live in Oakland, California.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carl White:

Now a day individuals who Living in the era wherever everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not demand people to be aware of each information they get. How individuals to be smart in acquiring any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Reading a book can help persons out of this uncertainty Information specially this Huey: Spirit of the Panther book since this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the information in this book hundred per cent guarantees there is no doubt in it everbody knows.

Anthony Anderson:

The event that you get from Huey: Spirit of the Panther could be the more deep you rooting the information that hide inside the words the more you get considering reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to comprehend but Huey: Spirit of the Panther giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The article author conveys their point in particular way that can be understood by simply anyone who read the idea because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having this particular Huey: Spirit of the Panther instantly.

Eldon Hall:

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Laura Lee:

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