



Alex Haley's Roots: An Author's Odyssey

By Adam Henig

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The first in-depth story about author Alex Haley's downward spiral from literary fame.

His critics called him a liar. His supporters saw him as transcending race relations. In 1977, following the airing of the mega-hit television mini-series *Roots*, its author, **Alex Haley**, became America's newest "folk hero."

His book was on the *New York Times*' Best Seller's list for months, and won the Pulitzer Prize. His story had captivated a nation and then the world. From Idaho to Israel, it seemed everyone was caught up in "Rootsmania."

Alex Haley, the ghostwriter behind *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, was on his way to becoming the most successful African American author in the history of publishing until it all fell apart.

What happened?

Based on interviews of Haley's contemporaries, personal correspondence, legal documents, newspaper accounts, **Adam Henig** investigates the unraveling of one of America's most successful yet enigmatic authors.

Praise of "Alex Haley's Roots"

"Henig recounts the highs and lows of Haley's life with sympathy, addressing the critiques honestly." *Publishers Weekly's Booklife*

"Few Americans are aware that Alex Haley has two books among the most popular in American history--his collaboration with Malcolm X and Roots. Adam Henig underscores this point and more in his brief but incisive biography of Haley. Much more can be said about this magnificent writer and if Henig's book doesn't ignite this search, it will stand as a worthy pursuit of Haley's contribution to American letters." - **Herb Boyd**, author of *Baldwin's Harlem: A Biography of James Baldwin* and co-editor of *By Any Means Necessary: Malcolm X: Real, Not Reinvented*

"While this 52 page book may be his first, it represents a major literary achievement. This book may renew scholar and the general public's interest in Roots once again." - **Nvasekie Konneh, Black Star News and author of *The Land of My Father's Birth***

"Adam Henig has created a gem... A must read for anyone interested in the interplay of politics, race and mixed blessings of fame and fortune that produced the contradictory legacy of a onetime icon." - **Terry P. Wilson, Professor Emeritus of Ethnic Studies, UC Berkeley**

"Some critics accused Alex of making up significant portions of Roots. Did he? Henig tackles this touchy question head on. Result: A highly readable story." - **Edward T. Thompson, Editor-in-Chief, *Reader's Digest 1976-1984***

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Editorial Review

Review

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About the Author

Adam Henig is the author of *Alex Haley's Roots: An Author's Odyssey* (2014) and *Under One Roof: The Yankees, the Cardinals, and a Doctor's Battle to Integrate Spring Training* (2016).

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