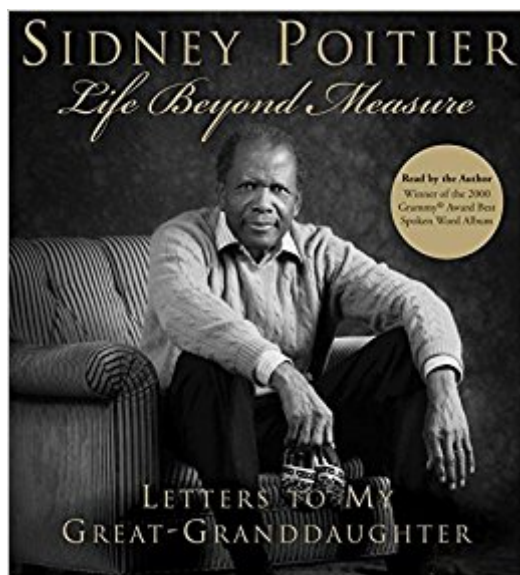


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# Life Beyond Measure: Letters To My Great-Granddaughter



## Synopsis

Sidney Poitier is one of the most revered actors in the history of Hollywood. He has overcome enormous obstacles in extraordinary times and is a role model for many Americans because of his convictions, bravery, and grace. Poitier reflects on his amazing life in *Life Beyond Measure*, offering inspirational advice and personal stories in the form of extended letters to his great-granddaughter. Writing for all who admire his example and who search for wisdom only a man of great experience can offer, this American icon shares his thoughts on love, faith, courage, and the future. Poitier draws upon the perspective and wisdom gained from his memories as a poor boy in the Bahamas, his experience of racism coming to the United States, falling in love and raising a family, breaking the race barrier in theater and film during the Civil Rights Era, achieving stardom and success in Hollywood, and being a diplomat and humanitarian. He reflects on the deepest questions and the significant passages of his life, the virtues that helped him through tough times, and the sense of purpose and history that strengthened him. He emphasizes the importance of the role of faith in a technological age, as well as our responsibility to the earth and future generations. Throughout, Poitier shares stories about the people of courage he has met along the way and the meaning of life in the face of death. *Life Beyond Measure* is the perfect book to inspire readers to live the fullest life with integrity, from one of our most respected celebrities and a national treasure.

## Book Information

Audio CD: 9 pages

Publisher: HarperAudio; Abridged edition (May 13, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 006156849X

ISBN-13: 978-0061568497

Product Dimensions: 4.1 x 1.5 x 4.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 50 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,262,723 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #95 in [Books > Books on CD > Parenting & Families > Parenting](#) #501 in [Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Grandparenting](#) #1702 in [Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Fatherhood](#)

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Celebrated writer/director/actor Poitier returns with a third memoir (following 1980's

This Life and 2000's *The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography*) detailing his remarkable story and offering his own take on some of life's most ponderous questions. Written as a set of letters to his great granddaughter, *Life Beyond Measure* is bursting at the seams with inspirational stories aimed to advise and motivate us all. His writing is deep, his views are that of a wise man who has seen the world from every angle. Poitier's classical, firm and rolling voice is entirely engaging, and listeners will find themselves yearning for more. A HarperOne hardcover. (May) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"It's typical of Poitier's modesty that what may be his last book is not another celebration of his triumphs but a collection of lessons learned by that wise old actor, passed on to generations who might never truly understand how he changed movies." -- The Los Angeles Times "Some people aren't satisfied to be dashing, principled, talented, influential, and legendary; they have to keep giving of themselves. In *Life Beyond Measure*, Poitier unaffectedly muses on life's mysteries, as compelling as ever in his ninth decade." -- O Magazine "Wise life lessons for everyone's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren." -- Ebony "It's typical of Poitier's modesty that what may be his last book is not another celebration of his triumphs but a collection of lessons learned by that wise old actor, passed on to generations who might never truly understand how he changed movies." -- The Los Angeles Times -- This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

There were certainly slow parts of this book I didn't care for, but overall it was an interesting, intimate look into Poitier's life, with much devoted to lessons he wants to share with his grandchild. One of my favorite snippets is where he talks about money, and putting money in perspective, not letting the acquisition of it consume you: "Over much of your upcoming years, money will command your attention. Allow it a proper place in your life, but deny it a throne." Something to remember when money, not happiness, becomes too much of a focus.

Poitier delivers this wonderful memoir by way of letters to his infant great-granddaughter. Somehow, he was able to weave into this book a beautiful mix of philosophy, his life experiences, offerings of wisdom, and descriptions of himself as an individual -- all directed toward, not just his great-granddaughter, but to any and all of us. I especially enjoyed his descriptions and stories about his youth -- born and raised on Cat Island Bahamas, then to Nassau, then to NY City, and on to his Hollywood career. Poignant! Eloquently written. Memorable. All this from a man who was (and I

stress WAS) uneducated and lived a totally isolated childhood where he knew love in abundance, but knew nothing of the world that existed beyond a small area of a tiny island. I was fascinated by the fact that he didn't know what he looked like until his late teens (forget exact age), as he had never seen a mirror. A compelling read -- sometimes light, often deep, always interesting.

Some pretty interesting reflections from a self-made man that became one of the greatest actors of the twentieth century while breaking down racial barriers and stereotypes that were pervasive during that time in our country. It took him decades of struggles to become the generally beloved and respected figure we know today. Thoughtfully written. Would Recommend to all ages high school and above.

Mr. Poitier has a wonderful way with words...especially without a script!

Mr. Poitier, in writing to his great-granddaughter hits all the biggest life themes in a most personal, revealing yet respectful way. His honesty, humor and immense affinity for his family, co-workers and mankind as well, makes this book extremely readable. I found the book personally valuable and memorable and have given it as a gift.. The audio tapes are even better for his voice is just so great to hear.

Just wonderful  
Written with heart and brain and with humanity.  
May God bless you and all your loved ones  
Sydney!  
Liliane

I wish more people would communicate across the generation gap. Poitier is a very thoughtful writer and I have enjoyed his other books on CD.

As a member of [...], an online book club, I first 'read' the book on my player. Having read Poitier's autobiography earlier, I knew that I wanted to read this new book (the letters). It's incredible... so much so that I had to have it in hard copy so that I could go back and re-read, and use it for references regarding the things I wish I had done, said, and known when my children were small. Since then I have ordered copies (from !) for friends and relatives. It's a definite 'must read'!

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Measure for

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