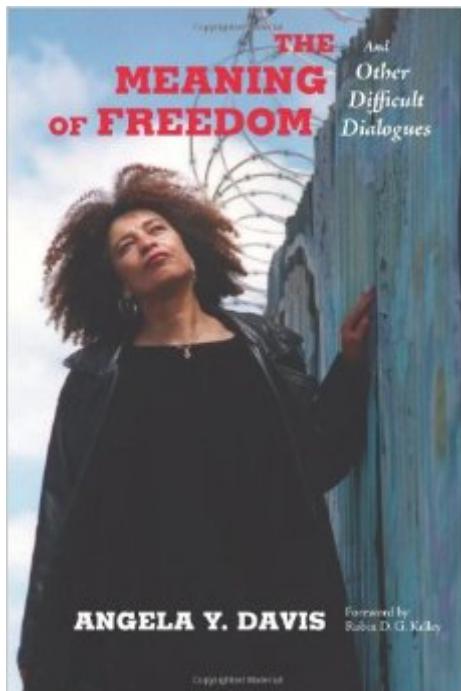# The Meaning Of Freedom: And Other Difficult Dialogues (City Lights Open Media)

Synopsis

"Davis' arguments for justice are formidable. . . . The power of her historical insights and the sweetness of her dream cannot be denied."—The New York TimesWhat is the meaning of freedom? Angela Y. Davis' life and work have been dedicated to examining this fundamental question and to ending all forms of oppression that deny people their political, cultural, and sexual freedom. In this collection of twelve searing, previously unpublished speeches, Davis confronts the interconnected issues of power, race, gender, class, incarceration, conservatism, and the ongoing need for social change in the United States. With her characteristic brilliance, historical insight, and penetrating analysis, Davis addresses examples of institutional injustice and explores the radical notion of freedom as a collective striving for real democracy—not a thing granted by the state, law, proclamation, or policy, but a participatory social process, rooted in difficult dialogues, that demands new ways of thinking and being. "It is not too much," writes Robin D.G. Kelly in the introduction, "to call her one of the world's leading philosophers of freedom." The Meaning of Freedom articulates a bold vision of the society we need to build and the path to get there. This is her only book of speeches and her first full-length book since Are Prisons Obsolete? (2003).Angela Y. Davis is professor emerita at the University of California and author of eight books. She is a much sought after public speaker and an internationally known advocate for social justice.Robin D.G. Kelley is the author of many books and a professor at the University of Southern California.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Angela Davis' book "The Meaning of Freedom" is a collection of speeches/jeremiads that span the last twenty years of her career as a leftwing civil rights activist. The book is compelling, intellectually provocative, and emphatically charged insofar as social injustice is concerned.Davis is fearless when it comes to raising the issue of civil rights for all people of different races, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, and let's not forget felons. Davis believes the American dream should be a reality that everyone should have access to. Unfortunately, they don't.In most States, the LGBT community still doesn't have the legal right to marriage. Also, felons are relegated to second class status for the rest of their lives, permanently losing the right to vote, all the while, legally being denied work and not being able to apply for social programs in order to get back on their feet. The Clinton Crime Bill is a prime example of this apartheid behavior toward felons in the United States. As a matter of fact "racism plays a major role in determining who is subject to state punishment and who is not!" The reasons why are staggering as Davis points out during the 2000 election in Florida. Overall, 950,000 former felons reside there and if they were given the right to vote, its plain to see that Al Gore would have been elected president of the United States. The real objective insofar as eradicating the civil rights of the incarcerated is to maintain a form of hegemonic despotism in the auspices of a pseudo-democracy, which the Ultra-Right would control.

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