

# [PDF] Growing Up X

## Ilyasah Shabazz - pdf download free book

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### Books Details:

Title: Growing Up X  
Author: Ilyasah Shabazz  
Released: 2003-01-14  
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### Description:

**From Publishers Weekly** One of Malcolm X's six daughters, Shabazz was two when he was assassinated in February 1965. The bulk of the book covers the day-to-day specifics of Shabazz's childhood and adolescence as a middle-class African-American Muslim girl, punctuated by small brushes with her parents' past. Malcolm X is justifiably sentimentalized via the fragmentary memories and second-hand stories of Shabazz's childhood perspective (including a visit to the soon-to-be Muhammad Ali's training camp). Shabazz's mother, Dr. Betty Shabazz, eventually a professor of health administration at Medgar Evers College, is a constant presence in the book; "Mommy" shepherds Ilyasah and the other girls through school, and herself through graduate work, with "amazing strength and perseverance." Ilyasah's often ordinary existence is rendered in unadorned prose (to the point of listing teachers she had in various schools or chronicling a standoff with neighborhood girls), and her insights into herself and those around her can be cursory (a rape is covered in two pages) if honestly rendered. Shabazz is working on a book about her parents, which

may explain why it sometimes feels like anecdotes and information are being held back. By the time Ilyasah comes to a more nuanced understanding of her identity as the daughter of Malcolm X, Betty Shabazz is killed by a fire set by one of Ilyasah's nephews in 1997. The book ends there, with exhortations that "Life is not a destination; it is a journey."

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**From School Library Journal** Adult/High School-Shabazz was two years old when her father was murdered in the presence of his young family, and she describes how her mother heroically raised her and her sisters in his absence. Betty Shabazz got help from friends and wealthy celebrities to buy a big, beautiful home in Mt. Vernon, NY, after the Nation of Islam evicted them from the small house it had provided during Malcolm X's ministry. The girls led comfortable, sheltered, upper-middle-class lives, complete with housekeepers, chauffeured cars, exclusive social clubs, and expensive, predominantly white private schools and summer camps. In her well-meaning attempts to protect her daughters from emotional trauma, their mother didn't teach them anything about their father's work and philosophy. Shabazz was in college when she read *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* for the first time. The author obviously idolizes her mother, who was always studying and working hard to provide for her daughters in style, but also indicates that she was controlling—even to the point of selecting Shabazz's college and dismissing her daughter's expressed desire to attend a black university. Teens who have been inspired by the life and speeches of Malcolm X will undoubtedly find this memoir interesting.

*Joyce Fay Fletcher, Rippon Middle School, Prince William County, VA*

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