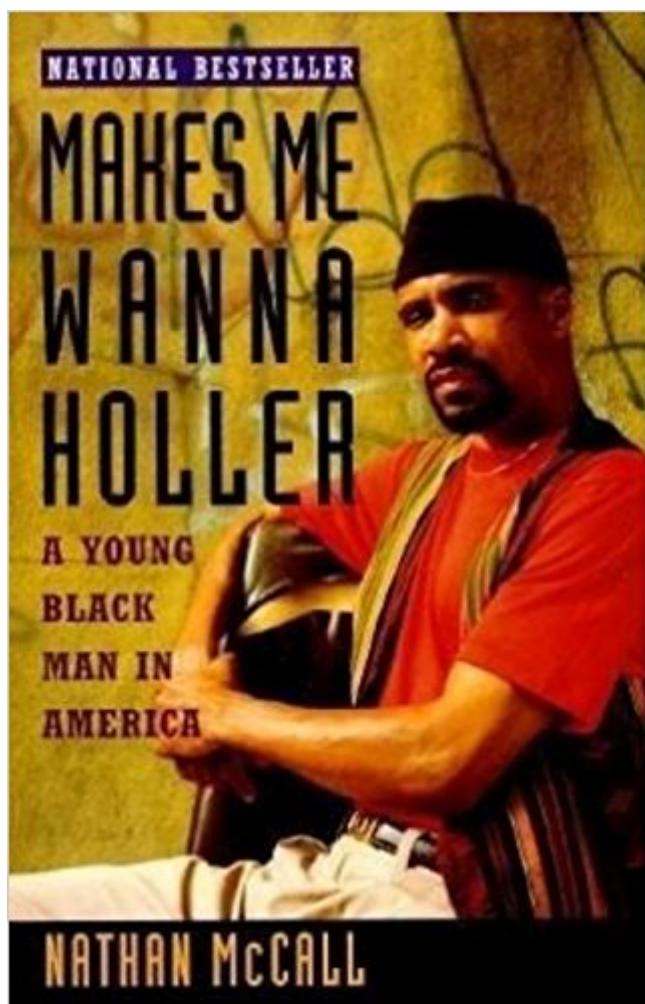


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# Makes Me Wanna Holler: A Young Black Man In America



## **Synopsis**

One of our most visceral and important memoirs on race in America, this is the story of Nathan McCall, who began life as a smart kid in a close, protective family in a black working-class neighborhood. Yet by the age of fifteen, McCall was packing a gun and embarking on a criminal career that five years later would land him in prison for armed robbery. In these pages, McCall chronicles his passage from the street to the prison yard—and, later, to the newsrooms of The Washington Post and ultimately to the faculty of Emory University. His story is at once devastating and inspiring. For even as he recounts his transformation, McCall compels us to recognize that racism is as pervasive in the newsroom as it is in the inner city, where it condemns so many black men to prison, to dead-end jobs, or to violent deaths. At once an indictment and an elegy, *Makes Me Wanna Holler* became an instant classic when it was first published in 1994. Now, some two decades later, it continues to bear witness to the great troubles—and the great hopes—of our nation. With a new afterword by the author

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

McCall's autobiography?a seven-week PW bestseller?tracks his trajectory from the streets of Portsmouth, Va., to prison, rehabilitation and a job at the Washington Post; features a new introduction by the author. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

YA-An autobiography that captures the pain, anger, and fierce determination of a black journalist

writing today for the Washington Post. McCall's open and honest description of his life as a boy in a black neighborhood in Portsmouth, VA, his participation in violent criminal acts, and his eventual imprisonment for armed robbery seem somehow to be an expression of the rage of so many young people in America's urban areas. While imprisoned, he worked as inmate librarian and was so moved by Richard Wright's books that he became fascinated by the power of words and decided to become a writer. Though he's made a successful career against great odds, he makes it plain that he doesn't feel completely at ease with his peers in the establishment or those on the streets. His difficult story is told in such an immediate and compelling fashion that young people will be caught up in this strong narrative and gain real insight into McCall's growth and change and, thus, contemporary urban issues. Patricia Noonan, Prince William Public Library, Manassas, VA  
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I have read this book at least four times since 1995. This last time I read it, I was really able to identify with the author, since I had experienced a lot of the same struggles and emotions as Mr. McCall by then. Since there are so many positive things that I could say about this book, way too many to put into words here, I will just say this: If you are a young person, especially a young person of color, you should read this book. It is a blessing...

It took me half the book to get into it. Nathan McCall writes beautifully and powerfully. He gives the reader a real sense of where he grew up and how he grew up, and is clearly a caring human being. He also has a strong ego, knew what he wanted along the way and got there. He could have cut the first half of the book to 2/3 the length. The interesting part is how he learned to cope with what life threw at him, and that was in the last half of the book.

I recommend this book highly for anyone not afraid to leave their comfort zone. The raw honesty and window into this life will not leave you unchanged.

Awesome book. Read it if you have time. This was a required reading for class. I would've read it without it being required is how informative and good it is. Pick yours up.

I love every page of this book! Very gripping. Changed my perspective and understandings on minority group relations and the system.

He keeps it real and clear. A must read.

Great book, very transparent. Despite how this man's story began, his ending made all the difference. Recommend for all African-American brothers.

good book. only book I have read from cover to cover without stopping in one sitting....it was that good (at least in my opinion)

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