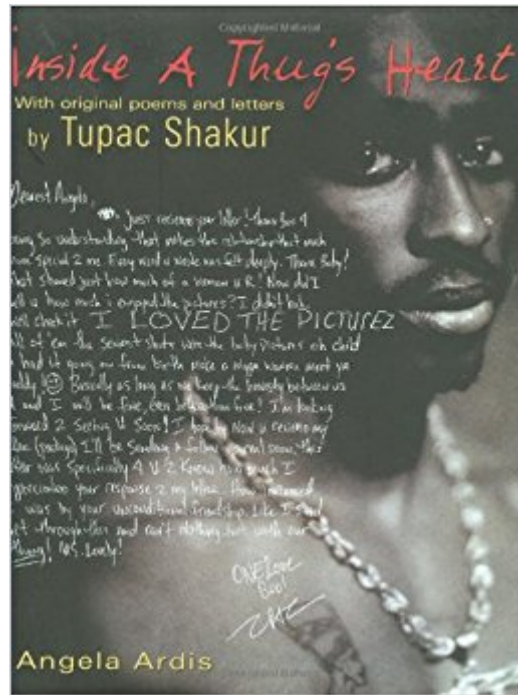


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Inside A Thug's Heart



Synopsis

Rikers Island is the centerpiece of the New York City Department of Corrections, a sprawling prison city of concrete and steel with housing for more than 16,000 inmates. Early in 1995, it was also the temporary home of legendary rapper and actor Tupac Shakur, incarcerated for a crime he swore he did not commit. And it was there that Angela Ardis, acting on a late-night wager among her friends and coworkers, sent a letter, along with a photo and her phone number. To her utter delight and amazement, Angela's phone rang a short while later. Tupac Shakur was on the line. Over the next several months, Angela and Tupac shared a near-daily exchange of letters, poems and phone calls, and their relationship quickly grew into something neither of them could quite define, a kinship of souls that touched each in unexpected ways. Those original poems and letters, many of them written after Tupac's transfer from Rikers to Dannemora State Prison, are presented here, along with the increasingly passionate and personal phone calls that touched on every subject imaginable. Far from the media spotlight, Tupac was by turns playful, sensual and serious, offering sharp observations on prison, music and the uncertainties of life. His letters to Angela reflect how he felt about being shot five times and left for dead one terrible night in New York in 1994, and his heartfelt verse encapsulates his dreams for the future--a future that would be so tragically cut short just over eighteen months after their correspondence began. Tupac Shakur was shot on September 7th, 1996 and died a week later from his injuries. His murder remains unsolved, an ending as enigmatic as his life. But while Tupac may be gone, his words live on here, giving every fan a rare glimpse inside the mind and unbroken spirit of a passionate and unpredictable musical icon. Angela Ardis is an author, screenwriter, actress and model.

Book Information

Hardcover: 241 pages

Publisher: Kensington (May 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0758207891

ISBN-13: 978-0758207890

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (48 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #386,678 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #103 in [Books > Arts &](#)

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Customer Reviews

INSIDE A THUG'S HEART is a compilation of original poems and letters written and exchanged between Tupac Shakur and the author Angela Ardis. Through the letters, poems and phone conversations, the author gives us a glimpse into the heart of Tupac Shakur. Readers will find that behind the hard exterior and the media hype, Tupac was a very intelligent, deep, sensitive, sensual, funny and genuine human being. He was a true believer in keeping it real. On a dare from her friends and co-workers, Angela Ardis writes to Tupac while he is incarcerated in New York. She is quickly surprised by a message left by Tupac, "Hi, Angela. This is Tupac..." Not only did she win the bet, she embarked on a very unusual pen pal relationship with the notorious Tupac Shakur. Their relationship quickly grows into friendship, lust and a unique kind of love. From the letters, you realize that Tupac is a contradiction in spirit and mind. His letters and poems envelop a sensitive and erotic feel, yet the thuggish persona is still apparent. Angela Ardis shares these poems, letters and phone conversations to give readers a true sense of how complex and deep Tupac truly was as a person. He knew he was not perfect, but he had a good heart. She was able to convey all the facets of Tupac. Even after she met him behind prison walls and she realized he was under the influence of drugs, she never changed her perception of him. He was a man who was not perfect, who loved hard, gave freely from his heart and was genuinely a good person. INSIDE A THUG'S HEART has some commentary interspersed between the letters that were sent back and forth. It was well written, but the real story lies within the letters and poems written by Angela and Tupac. Each poem and letter tells you so much about Tupac from his funny nature, introspective moments, erotic needs and good heartedness. If you are interested in knowing what is harbored in a thug's heart, this story will definitely give you some insight. Reviewed by Cashana Seal of The RAWSISTAZÃ™ Reviewers

As a voracious reader, a serious hip hop head and a survivor of South Central Los Angeles, I have always been attracted to Tupac, his warmth, his lyricist skills/delivery and his angst. I read Mrs. Ardis' book in about 4 hours, and wasn't impressed. In fact, it felt invasive reading this man's love letters written "exclusively for Angelea" and eavesdropping on his private telephone conversations. Nonetheless, I did purchase and read the book in its entirety. The relationship between Mrs. Ardis and Tupac seemed too contrived, and well very calculated on her part. A case in point, who actually

transcribes every telephone conversation and keeps every peice of correspondence. She lost all credibility with me, when she stated her desire to become a writer. I felt Tupac was simply her launching pad, an opportunity to spark her writing career. The media's portrayal of any African-American man, including Tupac is biased, sensationalistic and ultimately negative. To know Tupac, listen to Tupac -- his lyrics speak his truths to you. In as many books I have read about the life of Tupac, I still do NOT get his Thug Life philosophy. It appeared shallow, destructive, not well thought out and somewhat immature. The title of this book - "Inside A Thug's Heart" lead me to believe I would gain a better understanding of his philosophy. I expected Mrs. Ardis to challenge him to think deeper about his ability to influence young African-American men and provide a framework for their economic, social and mental development. I was disappointed yet again - with Pac and with Ms. Lovely. The convoluted dialogue re. Mrs. Ardis and Tupac's queen, his widow Keisha was disturbing. The subjugation of all women will remain until each woman learns to respect each other. I found Mrs. Ardis naive to believe she was the only "girlfriend" in Tupac's life, outside his marriage. Incarceration is mentally damaging, does strange things to a person's mind, his letters or "kites" as we call them in So. Central L.A were just that -- a lonely man seeking comfort, support, companionship and sexual release. I would not be surprised to learn, he developed such a relationship with many other women throughout the country while incarcerated. She does not come across as special-- Tupac was simply passing time. And she although is beautiful, bright, ambitious, introspective, a decent writer, and at times unflinchingly honest, she ultimately betrayed his trust.

an accurate record, chronologically correct. It shows how democratic Tupac was. The letters also reveal the effect of incarceration and betrayal on him and his loneliness. You get the sense that he was weighing up a lot of options, issues and beginning to emerge as Tupac the man with one destiny. The author is just being herself at that time in history and shouldn't be judged so viciously. The real depth in the book obviously comes from Pac's passion in his letters and poems.

While I was looking over the book in my local bookstore I was unsure about buying it. First because it felt as though I was invading Tupac's privacy. Second because I thought that Ms. Ardis was nothing more than a groupie that was trying to use Tupac's name to make a quick dollar. Needless to say I went ahead and bought the book. The poetry from Ms. Ardis and Tupac is great. I hated the fact that some parts in the book were her fantasies instead of the matter at hand. When I got to the end of the book I felt as though Ms. Ardis had been played and she didn't even know it. The poetry in the book is great. The rest is just (in my opinion) useless information. I could have also done without

Ms. Ardis discussing her need to defecate.

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