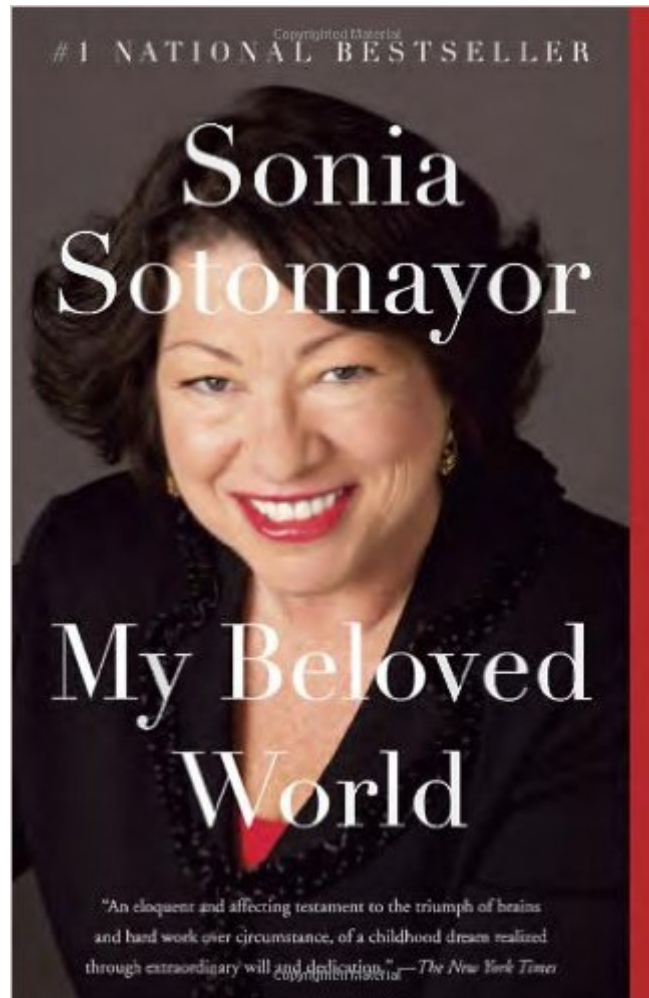




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# My Beloved World



## Synopsis

The first Hispanic and third woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court, Sonia Sotomayor has become an instant American icon. Now, with a candor and intimacy never undertaken by a sitting Justice, she recounts her life from a Bronx housing project to the federal bench, a journey that offers an inspiring testament to her own extraordinary determination and the power of believing in oneself. Here is the story of a precarious childhood, with an alcoholic father (who would die when she was nine) and a devoted but overburdened mother, and of the refuge a little girl took from the turmoil at home with her passionately spirited paternal grandmother. But it was when she was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes that the precocious Sonia recognized she must ultimately depend on herself. She would learn to give herself the insulin shots she needed to survive and soon imagined a path to a different life. With only television characters for her professional role models, and little understanding of what was involved, she determined to become a lawyer, a dream that would sustain her on an unlikely course, from valedictorian of her high school class to the highest honors at Princeton, Yale Law School, the New York County District Attorney's office, private practice, and appointment to the Federal District Court before the age of forty. Along the way we see how she was shaped by her invaluable mentors, a failed marriage, and the modern version of extended family she has created from cherished friends and their children. Through her still-astonished eyes, America's infinite possibilities are envisioned anew in this warm and honest book, destined to become a classic of self-invention and self-discovery.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Best Books of the Month, January 2013: Happily, it is becoming a familiar story: The young, smart, and very hardworking son or daughter of immigrants rises to the top of American professional life. But already knowing the arc of Sonia Sotomayor's biography doesn't adequately prepare you for the sound of her voice in this winning memoir that ends, interestingly, before the Yale Law School grad was sworn in as the first Hispanic Supreme Court Justice. Hers is a voice that lands squarely between self-deprecating and proud, grateful and defiant; a voice lilted with bits of Puerto Rican poetry; a voice full of anger, sadness, ambition, and love. *My Beloved World* is one resonant, glorious tale of struggle and triumph. --Sara Nelson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

**\*Starred Review\*** When Sotomayor joined the U.S. Supreme Court in 2009, she made history as the first Hispanic on the high court. She'd also achieved the highest dream of a Puerto Rican girl growing up in a Bronx housing project longing to someday become a judge. In this amazingly candid memoir, Sotomayor recalls a tumultuous childhood: alcoholic father, emotionally distant mother, aggravating little brother, and a host of aunts, uncles, and cousins, all overseen by her loving, domineering paternal grandmother. When she was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes at eight years of age, she knew she had to learn to give herself the insulin shots. That determination saw her through Catholic high school, Princeton, and Yale Law School, at each step struggling to reconcile the poverty of her childhood with the privileges she was beginning to enjoy. No rabble-rouser, she nonetheless was active in student groups supporting minorities. At Yale, she learned how to think about jurisprudence, but readers looking for clues to her judicial thinking will be disappointed as she deliberately demurs. She recounts complicated feelings toward her parents and her failed marriage as she advanced to the DA's office, private practice, the district court, and, triumphantly, the Supreme Court. Sotomayor offers an intimate and honest look at her extraordinary life and the support and blessings that propelled her forward. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** A media blitz will attend the release of this already newsworthy memoir by the Supreme Court's first Hispanic justice. --Vanessa Bush --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A must read for all political junkies. Justice Sotomayor has written a very enjoyable, easily readable

autobiography. Both her mental & emotional intelligence shines. She makes it clear that it wasn't only through hard work, but being prepared when an opportunity arises and the necessity of all stars to align for her to rise. Justice Sotomayor is the culmination of the perfect storm: A lovely summer storm that clears out the stink and gives hope that the sun may shine in the morning.

Throughout her early years and into her adulthood, Sonia Sotomayor has been open to listening and learning. Her passion became the Law and what it stood for. With her infatuation for Perry Mason (as a young girl), came her desire to practice law. And, her self-determination and self-efficiency, though she struggled with the poor neighborhood where she lived, and her father's young death, she persevered. Graduating at the top of her High School Class, and then acceptance into Princeton (graduation Summa Cum Laude) and then attendance of Law School at Yale, she kept herself focused. Ever striving to learn more and more. However, along with this determination came sacrifice. She dealt with the failure of her marriage, and even as an adult, prejudice in both College and in the workplace. She worked hard, earning all she accomplished and became a prosecuting Attorney for the New York City DA's office. After working there for several years (Quite successfully), she continued to focus on her #1 goal to become a Judge. So, she became defense attorney. Her judgeship came late, and then her nomination to and confirmation into the U S Supreme Court. Sonia tells her story with heartfelt emotions that is truly engaging.

I had no idea what to expect when I saw the cover of the memoir *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor. Once diving into the book you learn about the hardships and overcoming those hardships. Throughout the book she learns to be almost fully independent and not relying on anyone when put in a tough situation. She experienced a divorce with her highschool sweetheart. In the book it reads, "In that unhesitating matter-of-fact reply was a truth that I could no longer shut out: our marriage was over." (Sotomayor, Page 281) in which she had to support herself and learn to go her own way. Whether it was her struggle with diabetes at an early age, her troubles with her parents, her persistence through college and her early career and the loss of loved ones, Sonia always was able to work through the things that made her life hard. She was able to learn from all of the experiences in her life, good or bad, and got to where she wanted to be in her life. At the end of the book, she tells her mother she is getting a job as a U.S. district court judge in Manhattan. She has to balance the takeaway of being a low salary and in the book it reads, "It's the president who appoints federal district court judges." (Sotomayor, Page 373)

Like Sonia, I too come from Puerto Rican ancestry & grew up in the south Bronx. I jumped at the chance to read this knowing that some one similar to me had accomplished so much, overcame so much & excelled. Coming from such a challenging place to grow up in, Sonia's book is such a beacon of light. I especially loved the parts about her family life. It was very real, raw & many portions of her upbringing reminded me of my own childhood. This made me wish I could meet her in real-life. Thank you for such a great read.

Sonia writes in great detail about her childhood in the Bronx that was misunderstood by many people because of her Puerto Rican background. She really makes an important point that children must not be judged by the background of their parents. Sonia tells much about her work and study to learn more about the law. What a wonderful judge we have in the supreme court.

Sotomayor writes in a very accessible first-person voice that seems genuine. It grounds her experience as a minority and shows how she eventually came to see her minority community upbringing as an asset on which her high-powered intellectual and professional training gave her confidence that she would make a unique and valuable contribution to how American justice and democratic values can flourish. Without hitting the reader over the head with a screed on the importance of affirmative action policies to our national well-being, she makes the case as to why universities need to make an effort to be inclusive as to their student bodies. Sotomayor did not attend an elite prep school or suburban high school; she was "underprepared" to attend the Ivy League. Yet she had the drive and intelligence, and she brought a level of insight and intelligence to Princeton, Yale Law School, and to her subsequent career that could never have come from any student who came from the upper-middle and privileged classes of our society. The fact that once at school, she held her own without any external favors or manipulations speaks powerfully to the meritocratic principles of our higher ed system. This "meritocracy-factor" is rapidly being eroded in American higher education. Her book is Exhibit A in why we must turn this trend around.

This was an incredibly well written book by an iconic figure who found herself, from a young age, (even with the incredible support of a loving grandmother and aunts,) pretty much independent with dreams. It is the most human, loving story of a life well lived under often, difficult circumstances. One thing is for certain; Sonia Sotomayor has lived her life, her dreams and her humanity to the fullest possible degree. The court is indeed fortunate to have her.

The book is an incredibly detailed account of Justice Sotomayor's life and the people and experiences that helped to make her what she is today. I've never been involved in what it takes to be a lawyer or judge but this book seems as though it would be worth reading to anyone interested in seeing what it takes and in addition provides value in showing how following one's heart results in fulfillment. In the end it seemed such a personal account that it made me feel extremely gratified that she is one of the judges on our Supreme Court.

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