



It Is Well with My Soul: The Extraordinary Life of a 106-Year-Old Woman

Ella Mae Cheeks Johnson , Patricia Mulcahy

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

It Is Well with My Soul: The Extraordinary Life of a 106-Year-Old Woman

Ella Mae Cheeks Johnson , Patricia Mulcahy

It Is Well with My Soul: The Extraordinary Life of a 106-Year-Old Woman Ella Mae Cheeks Johnson , Patricia Mulcahy

An African American centenarian shares wisdom from a life well lived

An inspirational, dynamic, and one-of-a-kind woman, Ella Mae Cheeks Johnson's ordinary life has been nothing less than extraordinary throughout the course of her 106 years. The oldest living black graduate of Case Western Reserve University, Ella Mae is the child of former slaves who has experienced the best and worst of the past century, including the 2009 presidential inauguration, which she memorably attended last January. Through it all, she has endured-and thrived-by believing that compassion is the key to the good life. In *It Is Well with My Soul*, she shares her insights on living a long and enjoyable life and her hopes for the future.

It Is Well with My Soul: The Extraordinary Life of a 106-Year-Old Woman Details

Date : Published March 30th 2010 by Penguin Books (first published 2010)

ISBN : 9780143117445

Author : Ella Mae Cheeks Johnson , Patricia Mulcahy

Format : Paperback 202 pages

Genre : Biography, Autobiography, Memoir, Nonfiction, History

 [Download It Is Well with My Soul: The Extraordinary Life of a 10 ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online It Is Well with My Soul: The Extraordinary Life of a ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online It Is Well with My Soul: The Extraordinary Life of a 106-Year-Old Woman Ella Mae Cheeks Johnson , Patricia Mulcahy

From Reader Review It Is Well with My Soul: The Extraordinary Life of a 106-Year-Old Woman for online ebook

Elizabeth Katherine says

I admit outright that despite my 5 star rating I have not yet read the book. I've had a copy for quite some time. I had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Johnson many years ago when I worked for her son Jim Cheeks. She was an absolutely lovely lady, full of grace with a warm, welcoming smile when she met someone. Her pride in her son was tangible. I've read many of the reviews here and suspect that Mrs. Johnson was not so much looking to piece a history or story together, which may account for the fact that so many people found it boring. I suspect what she may have been doing was really just documenting her life, which would in fact be a little boring. One reviewer called her a little old lady, I will say this much, Mrs. Johnson was anything but a little old lady. She was a strong, determined woman who achieved a great deal at a time when these very achievements were denied people of color. I'm sure that I'll read the book with a different focus because I knew her son and met her. But I hope that all that read it and read it look beyond how boring it was.

Maeta says

This book reads like you are hearing Ella Mae speak. It is not a literary opus, but it is a conversation with the subject as she tells us the high points and the information she wants to share with us about her life. She was 106 at the time it was written, and it reads like you are sitting in with her and listening to her stories. I found it a nice pleasant read, with many inspirational messages mixed in. It was like being with my grandmother.

Tom Leland says

It was extraordinary that she lived to 106, and she was certainly an extraordinarily kind, wise, generous, spirited individual. But even all of that doesn't necessarily add up to an "extraordinary life". I can imagine certain people in particular stages of life, or with certain prejudices or assumptions about African-Americans, and/or seniors -- who would benefit and even be enlightened by this book. But those groups aren't going to be the ones to read it. So not sure how this got green-lighted to be published.

Betsy says

The subtitle of the copy I read is "Extraordinary life of a 106-year-old Woman." I must have the newer edition. Wow! I saw this at the library and picked it up; how could anyone Not be interested in the perspective of life from a 106-year-old? Having said that, it was Ho-Hum. I could have read the last chapter and skipped the rest. Her philosophy of life: be compassionate and a good samaritan.

Michelle says

I didn't like this book quite as much as I liked the Life Is So Good or the books by the Delancy sisters. But it

was still pretty interesting. This lady is much more reserved, so I felt like I got to know her only on the surface, and seemed to be a little too full of slightly trite "this is the way I am" stuff and laudatory quotes from grandchildren. But that may not be the fault of the subject but the biographer. Anyway. I really enjoyed reading about her reaction to attending Barack Obama's inauguration, and thinking about what it must be like for a black woman who'd survived what she'd survived to see such an event. But again, we are kept kind of at a distance. I was really surprised how unemotionally she told of her first husband's dying of ALS.

Ellyn says

I was very excited about this book, as I'm interested in stories of people who have lived a very long time through the extraordinary changes of the 20th century. I'm also passionate about the civil rights movement, and Ella Mae Cheeks Johnson had seen everything in her long lifetime.

Her life was quietly inspirational, and she imparts lessons that are still applicable today. My only two gripes were the writing -- I think it was almost too train of thought and could have used some tightening up -- and the focus on lessons rather than stories. I would like to have learned more about the daily life of Mrs. Cheeks-Johnson in longer vignettes, because she was such a trailblazer in so many ways, but the narrative touched much too lightly on the more interesting aspects of her life.

All in all, though, a very worthwhile read about an exceptional life and woman.

Arleen says

I saw this book in a review. I knew nothing of this woman. The book is a simple walk your talk book. Philosophy over a 106 year lifetime. Amazing woman displaying integrity every year of her life. SO . . . inspirational.

Cindy says

Not sure yet. I got this recommendation from Brenda Opperman and I trust her!

OK--it wasn't a very well-written book. As Brenda said, it was more like a conversation with Ella Mae. Some parts were a bit confusing as she jumped around out of chronological order. But she had a rather interesting life and it was a very quick read.

Sarah says

I feel bad for giving this book only 1 star. Especially since it was written (with some help) by a cute little old lady. A little old lady who happened to be 106 years old when she wrote it. I was hoping that her biography would go into more detail about her childhood and growing up during the different wars and eras of history. Mostly the book felt like one giant ramble. There was no clear cut theme for each chapter despite what the titles may lead you to believe. Half the time she would start off saying one thing and end on a completely different topic. Then I find myself wondering, "How the hell did I get to that point in the story?" I also wasn't

a fan of all the religious references she made, though I understand religion was important to her, I just felt like it wasn't necessary. She also spent way too much time telling the back stories of other people instead of herself. So I feel like I know other people better than I know her now. This book could have been done so much better- especially since she had the assistance of an NPR correspondent to help her write it.

Mandi Murphy says

I have mixed feelings about this book. I found it confusing because it isn't told in a consistent time line. She sort of jumps around. So many things that Johnson had to say were interesting, but I would have enjoyed hearing it so much more than reading it. I reflected a lot on older people I have known and how important their cadences and expressions are when they speak. One more thing...while I felt that we had a lot of common beliefs, I just couldn't get on board with her political ideals.

Mel says

I thought I was going to LOVE this book. I feel bad for only giving it 2 stars. One star was for Mrs. Cheeks Johnson being so cute and overcoming huge odds. The other star because I really do think she had a phenomenal life. I agree with some of the other reviewers that said it was rambling. It was. What could have been a page turner (the woman lived 106 years. She lived through Jim Crow, became a social worker, breast cancer, two sons, two marriages, President Obama's inauguration) was... Not cohesive. The book jumped around. It wasn't told in chronological order. You don't get a feel for the times (except when she talked about W.E.B Dubois and a few incidents on the segregated train). She alluded to maybe one of her parents being White? She did say she passed from time to time. When she could. She repeated that we are all "mixed". There is so much you don't know. You know more about her thoughts and feelings, what others thought about her and, her beliefs. More so than about her actual life. I am not sure whether its because she didn't remember? Or? I don't know. I feel like I read a collection of incidents rather than a memoir.

Kennedy says

It Is Well with My Soul is a memoir by Ella Mae Cheeks Johnson about her long 106 year life. Johnson gained attention in 2008 when she attended Obama's Inauguration. Evan and I also attended the inauguration and were on the same plane as Johnson. We sat in the row behind her as people around us asked her questions about life and her thoughts on Obama. For me, it was a really cool way of starting out our trip, thinking about this black woman who had seen so many changes in society that lead her to where she was that day.

The book was very short, but was interesting considering the wide time span it covered. It focused a lot on her life rather than what she saw in society. It was enjoyable, but I would have been a bit disappointed by it had I not met her because I would have preferred the book to have discussed Johnson's reflections on changes she saw in the the US through the many events she experienced.

Tina says

I am sure that Ella Mae Cheeks Johnson's real life truly was an "Extraordinary Life", as the subtitle of this book suggests, given the drastic changes in society that she saw in her lifetime.

But Patricia Mulcahy should be embarrassed at how boring of a book she wrote. A good book keeps me awake at night. I couldn't read more than 2 or 3 pages of this book without falling to sleep. It was very unorganized. Necessary background information to help the reader understand the context of what Ella Mae was talking about was missing.

I only could read it to page 87 and then put this book was put on my virtual bookshelf called "So Bad I Couldn't Finish". Going back to the library today for some other poor soul to torture themselves with.

Loralee says

A nice memoir of a 106-year-old African American woman that probably wouldn't have been written if she hadn't managed to attend Obama's inauguration. Some of her challenges are astonishing--not knowing her own birthday because the country didn't record vital records for blacks when she was born, having to wear heavy makeup on one train to be allowed to ride in the sleeper car, losing her husband to a degenerative disease in his thirties and having to support her children. In other ways, she seems modern and prosaic, after a career in social work, travels to the Holy Land, fundraising for charitable causes in retirement. She endorses empathy and charity, hard work (saying her mother wouldn't have wished her an easier life, but one in which she struggled and gained satisfaction from her accomplishments), and tolerance. Though I didn't find this book earth-changing, I enjoyed her story and her philosophy.

Theresa Revilak says

I found this to be a somewhat tough read because it was here and there. An old woman (106!!) telling about her life. The hard part was she would go off on tangents. The charm of that is you can picture an old woman just going on about her life. But it made it hard to read at times. That being said, Ella Mae had a really amazing life and lots of stories. I guess anyone with 106 years under her belt could claim that, but maybe not. She was well traveled, wise, and had experienced a lot living as a black woman in the south. She tells it all in a matter of fact tone. This is what happened, she cannot change what happened but here is what it is. From her family's comments, she was obviously an inspiration to them. She sounds like a neat woman, and after reading her story, one I wished I could have met. I probably will not keep this book, but I'm happy I read it. Someone who's lived 106 years deserves to have their story read!!
