



"There have been many marches since, and several before, but no other march to the nation's capital captured our collective imagination like the March on Washington of August 28, 1963... The momentous pilgrimage showcased an inspired... Martin Luther King, Jr., the celebrated leader of black America who hadn't yet delivered an entire speech that the nation had listened to...

Gospel legend Mahalia Jackson... encouraged her friend to depart from paper... "Tell 'em about the dream, Martin," she bellowed from the background. And respond to her call King did... King cast aside his prepared speech... to weave the dream metaphor into the tapestry of the nation's self-image, and in the process he grafted black folk to the heart of American democracy."

Excerpted from the Essay by Michael Eric Dyson (pgs. 1-5)

"Leonard Freed's photographs of the March on Washington depict both the march and the marchers... For the participants, this was both a serious and a happy occasion, a chance to exercise their rights and to petition their government for a redress of ancient grievances. The marchers are at once sober, somber, and gleeful—proud to be present as they sense history is being made."

Excerpted from the Foreword by Julian Bond (page ix)

This Is the Day

Written by Kam Williams



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