



Life Out of Context

By Walter Mosley



Life Out of Context By Walter Mosley

Life Out of Context begins as a powerful, brooding and humorously honest examination of Mosley's own sense of cultural dislocation as an African American writer. But due to a series of serendipitous events — the screening of a documentary about Africa, an encounter with Harry Belafonte and Hugh Masakela — Mosley, rather like the protagonist in one of his mystery novels, has a series of epiphanies on the role of a black intellectual in America. He asks: What can we do to fight injustice, poverty, exploitation, and racism? What is globalization doing to us? Through these late night meditations, Mosley attempts to transcend his earlier feelings of living a "life out of context" and seeks instead to find a political context. He ends with a call to arms, proposing that African Americans have to break their historic ties with the Democrat Party, and form a party of their own

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The isolation and ineffectuality of the American left is lamented in this brooding, somewhat unfocused cri de coeur. Writing primarily for an African-American audience, novelist Mosley (the Easy Rawlins mystery series) argues that today's political myopia and paralysis are caused by a lack of "context." Americans, he contends, dwell on their own problems while ignoring the global context of oppression and exploitation—in Iraq, Africa and elsewhere—in which they are complicit. They are in turn shut out of decision-making forums, whose agenda is set mainly by the narrow interests of the wealthy and privileged. The efforts of progressive groups, meanwhile, lack any unified context and rallying point, and are therefore fragmented and dispersed among a myriad of causes. These musings prompt a number of suggestions, some of which—like giant downtown video screens to project images of humanitarian crises abroad—the author almost immediately retracts. Mosley's most substantive proposal is to challenge the two-party duopoly with a black political party; unfortunately, however, he does not discuss ways to lower the formidable institutional barriers to third parties in the American electoral system. In the end, he falls back on platitudes about the need for citizens to get involved and speak truth to power. Fine sentiments, indeed, but they fall well short of a cogent guide to action. (*Jan.*)

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From [Booklist](#)

From *Workin' on the Chain Gang: Shaking Off the Dead Hand of Slavery* (2000) to his popular genre fiction, Mosley's writing has always questioned the status quo. Now, in this short, passionate essay, he confronts his deep sense of political disengagement, and he calls on African Americans to get away from victimhood and take on responsibility for people of color, not only in America but also across the world. He is inspired by personal encounters with Hugh Masekela and Harry Belafonte, but Mosley speaks to ordinary people ("We are not only performers. We are also the rank and file"). He urges everyone to sit at the table, not in the yard, and to listen to the young. Sure to spark controversy, one chapter calls for a Black Party that will focus on prison reform, suffrage for all ex-convicts, universal health care, global child labor, and more. Never hectoring or self-righteous, the naive personal style may do what Mosley wants--call some readers to action and bring them to the table. *Hazel Rochman*

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About the Author

Walter Mosley is the author of 19 books which, over the course of the fourteen years of his career, span two series of mysteries, literary fiction, science fiction, and political philosophy. He has been the recipient of many awards and honors unusual for a writer of fiction including a Grammy Award for his liner notes accompanying "Richard Pryor...And It's Deep Too!: The Complete Warner Bros. Recordings (1968-1992)" and the Sundance Institute Risk-Takers Award for 2004. He will be given an honorary doctorate this year by City College of New York. He was the founder of the first-ever degree program to help train publishing professionals and encourage publishing houses to hire more candidates of color at City College. In addition, PEN West will honor him with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005. He has also been honored by TransAfrica Forum, was a recipient of the prestigious Anisfield Wolf Award, and served as editor for *The Best American Short Stories* of 2003.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Tara Carlson:

Often the book Life Out of Context will bring you to definitely the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book to learn, this book very acceptable to you. The book Life Out of Context is much recommended to you you just read. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

Desmond Goforth:

Precisely why? Because this Life Out of Context is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap it but latter it will distress you with the secret this inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who have write the book in such awesome way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book include such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

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