

# The Story of Martin Luther King Jr.: Hero of the Civil Rights Movement



## I Have a Dream: The Story of Martin Luther King, Jr. (HeRose and SheRose Book 2) by Paul Hellyer

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

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Martin Luther King Jr. was an American Baptist minister and activist who became the most prominent leader of the civil rights movement in the United States. He is best known for his advocacy of nonviolent resistance and his leadership in the Selma to Montgomery marches in 1965. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his work to end racial segregation and discrimination in the United States.

### **Early Life and Education**

King was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. His father was a pastor and his mother was a schoolteacher. King attended segregated schools in Atlanta, where he was often subjected to racial discrimination. In

1948, King enrolled at Morehouse College, where he studied sociology and religion. He graduated in 1951 and went on to study theology at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania. He was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1954.

### **The Montgomery Bus Boycott**

In 1955, King became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. The following year, he led the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which successfully desegregated the city's public buses. The boycott was a major turning point in the civil rights movement, and it helped to bring King to national attention.

### **The Southern Christian Leadership Conference**

In 1957, King co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), an organization that sought to coordinate the civil rights movement across the South. The SCLC organized nonviolent protests and marches against segregation and discrimination, and it played a major role in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

### **The March on Washington**

In 1963, King led the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, which brought more than 200,000 people to the nation's capital to demand an end to racial segregation and discrimination. King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech at the march, which is considered one of the most iconic speeches in American history.

### **The Selma to Montgomery Marches**

In 1965, King led the Selma to Montgomery marches, which were a series of protests against racial discrimination in voting rights. The marches were met with violence by state and local authorities, but they ultimately succeeded in forcing the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Voting Rights Act prohibited racial discrimination in voting and helped to ensure that all Americans had the right to vote.

## Assassination and Legacy

King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, by James Earl Ray, a white supremacist. His assassination shocked the nation and led to widespread mourning and protests. King's legacy continues to inspire people around the world, and his work for civil rights and nonviolence has left a lasting impact on the United States.

Martin Luther King Jr. was a courageous and visionary leader who dedicated his life to fighting for civil rights and equality for all. His work has made a lasting impact on the United States, and his legacy continues to inspire people around the world.



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