

## **[Reading] ? Push By Sapphire – Soccerjerseys-wholesale.co**

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5 stars for creating a really unique heroine5 stars for an enjoyable, engrossing story7 stars for beautiful use of language yeah mutherfuckers, sometimes that word is the only word that fits I didn't put much faith in an author named Sapphire More urban fiction ghetto girl's acrylics scratch eyes out of baby father's new crack addicted girlfriend, I thought Not that I don't quite enjoy urban fiction, Zane is quite good and very spicy I couldn't have been wrong The writing in the book is a joy to read It isn't, as most good writing is, just a vehicle to convey the material as much as a vibrant and necessary component of the story The literary device of the writing changing, opening, blooming along with the story is remarkably well executed.The story is really of how the system has failed those at the very bottom of society How no one cares about those who fall through the cracks so long as they do it quietly It's very much a diatribe against an America that so many blacks feel they had no place in forming and no place within as a right The racism and other prejudices are that of poverty Lack of experience and gossip being the main vehicles for knowledge rather than books and education In other words, the racism is not at all deep seated, it's something that can easily be changed for the better It is a wonderful book on every level, not just the writing, or the story, or the tremendous creation of Precious antithesis of a heroine, a 250lb girl who describes herself as too dark and ugly, and whose taste in clothes is appalling but hopeful, fluorescent yellow leggings and a leather jacket but also the ending There isn't one, it's in your mind And perhaps in how you might see your home town after reading it, and maybe also in who you vote for on your local council It's really you that can make the ending. PUSH exceeds the limits

of my understanding I am a white male moderately affluent educated healthy and able to say that my foundation from my past has allowed me to become the person I am today Precious Jones is none of these things If anything, she is the antithesis of what I am. This is not her fault Blame birth Chance Possibility. But what I have does not compare to what Precious Jones has She is a fighter a survivor of incest HIV positive beyond impoverished and yet, hope burns eternal within her No matter how the cards may be stacked against her, she fights If anything, Precious Jones and her story illustrate how savagely we precipitate violence upon each other And this violence is not born of strangersthis violence comes across the breakfast nook or the bedroom or the school yard from people you thought you could trust Admittedly, I will never know what it is like to walk in her shoes For me to even feel empathy for Precious feels like I am being hypocritical Me wincing at the passages does not change the event Me reading this story, as fictionalized as it may be, does not change the fact that somewhere a Precious is experiencing the violence and shame and suffering that no person should ever have to endure For some person tonight, this story is real Sapphire has done her part She has relayed a tale of woe And as much as I could be critical about the overwritten parts, the parts that scream look at me, stare, become aghast, I will never forget that this story is entirely plausible Perhaps that is my role in this story Perhaps my only job was to be witness to the vile nature of humanity I have seen, now But it doesn't change the fact that I can still close my eyes, kiss my children, get into my SUV and go to the park, make a steak, go on vacation, make love to a woman that loves me back, and forget that people like Precious will never get to do these things A heavy read, my friends, a heavy read **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** There is a debate or at least an ongoing conversation among teachers who help college students hone their reading skills What exactly, do you have the students read The great works of literature, such as Homer, Emerson yes, Vicky, I am thinking about our conversation the other night Do you have them read modern works How do you teach reading when you also have to teach reference The best example of this is when my students were reading an essay about wetlands and thought the word crane only referred to the building machine They couldn't figure out why it was flying And

no, my students are not stupid, and some are well traveled  
They just don't read, usually because school has failed them  
When I teach pre college level reading, I make my students do  
book reports They can choose the books This surprises them,  
and most of my students will read something by Terry Woods,  
like The Dutch books a series about a drug dealer One student  
was surprised that I let her read them I just wanted her to read  
Literature, she can get in my class Her last teacher had said  
she could read whatever she wanted for a book report, until  
she brought in the Dutch book Last year, one of my 101 level  
students asked me to read some of the books that she reads  
After all, she said, I was making them read Dracula I said yes  
For those of you who live in a big city, her books would be  
those books you can get from a street vendor, sometimes from  
a bookstore What has been called Urban African American  
fiction These books deal with life in the inner city and are  
usually, though not always, published by small firms. Out of  
three books my student loaned me, two could have used than  
just spell check, one was little than badly written fan fiction one  
I understood the appeal of though the writing needed polish ,  
and the last, by Sister Souljah, was good Sister Souljah's novel  
aside, the books, in short, were not what us literary teachers  
read The flaws were far too many and the plot was eye brow  
rising, and did explain why my students make some of the  
mistakes they do. Yet this type of work is important because it  
reflects something about society. Yet this genre also includes a  
book such as Precious, a book I will use in my classes. The  
book is not an easy read for two reasons One is the subject  
matter Precious is abused by both her father and her mother  
The second reason is the early spelling What Sapphire boldly  
does is capturing Precious's voice, and captures it exactly  
Precious cannot read therefore, she cannot spell Unlike two of  
the books I mentioned above, the errors in Precious are  
important They let the reader really know Precious, and come  
as close to her life as is possible What is , the writing improves  
as Precious changes her life Sapphire is using language on  
many different levels Using language in the strictest terms of  
communication, and she deserves award after award for this. If  
the spelling was perfect, the book would lack half of its impact,  
if not. Some idiots, and I use this word intentionally, will say a  
story like this could never happen. BULLSH I have taught

people who came from where Precious comes from It is shocking what your students will sometimes tell you It is even shocking when the student s next comment is about how impressed she is with you because you went straight to college after high school Yet, the student is going to school while working two jobs, is a single mother, and has usually come through a violent relationship or two. That s impressive Not me. What Sapphire gives the reader is a true story An uplifting story with a good dose of sadness, but a story that many teachers will know, will recognize, and will be nodding their heads over This is far better than those feel good Hollywood teacher movies This, like *Entre les murs* *The Class* , is what life and teaching are. Additionally, the action in the classroom rings true While the whole book is told from Precious point of view, the actions of Miz Rain and Precious classmates ring true Even JoAnn who disappears from the class rings true Any teacher will tell you that there are students like that in the classroom The sense of cohesion and togetherness that a good class can achieve is realistically drawn This is not the Hollywood movie where the white suburban teacher comes into an inner city class room fresh from the suburbs This is not the story where after a tough first two weeks, she magically touches her students who all start behaving well and gets scholarships to Princeton or some other Ivy League school If this was a Hollywood story, it would end with Precious, now a successful something, returning to her old school and thanking the white principal and white math teacher who arranged for her to join the alternative school No, thankfully, it s not that type of story. Classes don t work like that Teachers have bad days Students have bad days True, sometimes there will be that shocking light, where everything comes together But for days, weeks, months before that, there is hard work Hard repetitive work, for both the teacher and student Sapphire catches this. What stands out the most, however, is Precious herself While the reader feels pity and horror for her, Precious doesn t demand that pity Compared to other books where the female protagonist is horribly abused or mistreated or in the case of *The Lovely Bones*, killed and gets the reader s pity through the suffering of victimhood, Precious doesn t do that We see her angry and disruptive She curses She has something Nice is the word you want to use, but it doesn t really fit She is, in fact,

a victim, though to call her this cheapens her. Instead, Precious gets us on her side by simply existing. By stating in a matter fact tone of voice what is, and yet because of her frankness, we admire and like her. We root for her simply because she earns our respect. Despite the fact that her story is not ours, there are the roots of everyman, everywoman, in her. We all sometimes feel the way Precious sometimes feels. This makes her real. Read this book. I can't remember exactly when I threw this book across the room for the first time. Was it when Precious' mom beats her when she steals food just to eat when her father rapes her and she gets pregnant when he rapes her again and she gets pregnant again and the baby has down syndrome when she finds out the baby has AIDS when she finds out SHE has AIDS when she finally learns to read and then begins writing lots of broken poetry, all of which is included in the book? I've never read a book which I felt so exploited human misery. Sapphire wields it like a sledge hammer to the reader's skull. Precious Jones, An Illiterate Sixteen Year Old, Has Up Until Now Been Invisible. Invisible To The Father Who Rapes Her And The Mother Who Batters Her And To The Authorities Who Dismiss Her As Just One Of Harlem's Casualties. But when Precious, pregnant with a second child by her father, meets a determined and highly radical teacher, we follow her on a journey of education and enlightenment as Precious learns not only how to write about her life, but how to make it her own for the first time. I was going to write up a Celebrity Death Match between Sapphire and Dave Pelzer for the title of Most Abused Child Ever, but on second thoughts, silence is golden. One last thing I remember reading Push and watching The Wire during the same week had a strange effect on me which for a white English male was not a good thing. A work colleague asked me if Push was any good and I barked at him: bitch, be messin' my mind and shit. For the longest time Precious was my favorite modern 2008 up movie. It had the gospel and church strong power to compel me to immediately look upon my own life reflexively, and pronounce it all not too bad after all. Other souls are in peril, of course, and all I can do is complain about my own vapid existence. In truth, the movie adaptation is a horror film disguised as Oscar-baiting melodrama. It's powerful, a very visceral kick to the gut. The book is no different. Sure, it's devoid

that once in a lifetime performance by Monique The total effect of the conspicuous sporadic absence of the monstrous mother is one of tension, of the potential bite of the ferocious beast in the dark, that is to naturally come Sapphire's novel works like a real, and less tediously awful Flowers for Algernon It remains a brilliant worthwhile piece of art. I encountered this when it was excerpted in the New Yorker around the time of its 1997 publication, when I was a senior in high school Reading the New Yorker piece effectively shattered my skull, bludgeoning my brain into a tenderized and confused lump of quaking grey gristle Push is written in the voice of an impoverished, illiterate, uncared for, despised, abused, obese, neglected, friendless, and seriously fucked teenage black girl living in 1980s Harlem ground zero, at that time, of racialized poverty, the crack epidemic, AIDS, and pretty much every other attendant inner city nightmare you can think of The main character's voice is so violently affecting that I lack adequate words to describe what reading this was like for me For several days afterwards, I thought of it constantly I mean constantly, from when I woke up in the morning until I went to bed at night, and nearly every moment in between Sapphire's writing gave me the uniquely visceral experience of having left my own life and consciousness to inhabit the body and mind of an individual whose experiences polar opposite of my own strained the limits of imaginable human suffering I have never read anything else in my entire life that so completely and effectively forced my mind into occupying that of a fictional character, let alone one so completely different from me in every single respect, save gender and nationality I felt, while reading this, that I lost all critical sense of distance and observation, and actually in a very significant way became the character Precious And this experience of becoming her was so horrific and terrifying that I likely experienced symptoms of what mental health providers refer to as vicarious trauma the result of bearing witness to another person's experience of intensely traumatic events. Okay, okay, so you get it already this book had a huge impact on me So why only four stars The novel was unable to sustain the intensity of the shorter New Yorker piece, and had several significant flaws For one thing, Push seemed to me at the time to suffer from what is known as Jude the Obscure Syndrome, i.e., the ceaseless litany of Precious's sufferings

started to seem almost ridiculous after awhile she's not just raped by her dad, she's also raped by her mom of course Precious gets AIDS and so does her baby. on and on and on I haven't reread this since it came out mostly because I'm scared it wouldn't be so amazing as I remember but I'm curious if I'd respond differently to this after working for several years in social services, now that I've seen for myself that in fact who knew some people's lives really are exactly this bad. The other problem with this book is that it displays several diagnostic criteria for Social Novel Disorder, which is to say, the power of the narrative is undermined by a sense of the author's understandable agenda, and of a rather artificial plot trajectory in which Precious encounters a Sapphire like it seemed to me at the time social worker and thereby begins her healing and empowerment, learning in the process to read and to surrender her misguided and intolerant homophobic views. Of course, I might appreciate this optimistic ending a lot now than I did at 17, when it struck me as inorganic and corny. I have to reread this novel, and I will soon I'm very curious to see whether the writing still exerts the same power and force I remember, and also whether my own aging and experiences in the years since will have changed my response to what seemed like serious flaws on my first read. I'm a big fan of books written in vernacular if the voice rings true and the book is short. Luckily, this book does not overstay its welcome. If you ignore the final essays at the end, Push is all of 150 pages long. Your average reader could mow through its text in a single sitting. But I will warn you, if you're a self-proclaimed Grammar Nazi, your head could possibly explode. Rest assured, though, all errors and broken syntax is on purpose. Push or the movie tie-in title Precious, by Sapphire, is an emotionally charged look at a sexually abused girl and her struggle to become literate and do better for her and her children. The book is written from this molested teenager's point of view, so you will experience her growth both in the areas of reading and maturation. The novel is equally funny and heart-wrenchingly bleak. But it is the honesty of the voice that struck me the hardest. This is not a biography. These things did not actually happen. But it feels like the relaying of true events. Not often am I disgusted to the point of wanting to put a book down, but this book caused me to lay it aside several times. Even so, I

managed to read it in a 24 hour period Herein you will experience the most vile human behavior told in the simplest language Poor Precious cannot win But her struggle is fascinating And the best part is, even at rock bottom, she finds hope. In summation A truly touching novel Reading this is like witnessing the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into butterfly Highly recommended with the caveat that this novel is sometimes hard to read due to both content and intended spelling and grammatical errors

Final Judgment A master class in human evil. I honestly doubt I would have picked this novel up had it not been recommended to me or as was the case required as part of a class While I enjoy coming of age stories and stories of overcoming hardship, the overarching themes and situations in this book are off putting to say the least. The professor made it very clear that the first chapter 40 pages was going to be very difficult to read for a number of reasons Some students were put off by the spelling which was initially a little strange, but I have fun with dialect books with similar spelling or grammar issues, so this didn't bother me much The vulgarity was definitely over the top and very harsh it did make me cringe a bit, but I pushed through it. What was the hardest for me, and likely for most readers, was the absolute raw and brutal honesty with which the abuse was treated in this novel Since it is presented in the synopsis and the first few pages, I don't consider it a spoiler to tell you that this is the story of a teenage girl ironically named Precious who has been raped by her father for the majority of her life seriously the majority being since toddler hood She is now giving birth to her second child sibling by her father Her mother is physically, verbally and emotionally abusive as well They live in a welfare situation where Precious is essentially a slave to her mother's whims. The first chapter and additional passages scattered throughout the book are graphic, raw, and absolutely stunning I came away from the reading disgusted at humanity The writing style is in first person and thus is very closely tied to the main character The language used is poetically and articulately placed on the page in such a way to make Precious a very vivid character who is very real Despite her difficulties with language despite starting the novel in 9th grade with passing grades, she is completely illiterate and likely hasn't learned anything in school ever, the text portrays her emotions and

motivations beautifully The descriptions of the world around her are striking and vivid as well. This is very much NOT a book for children The themes involved could be very eye opening for teenagers, but because of their presentation and the vulgarity and graphic themes, I would not recommend this to young teens and not even to older teens unless I felt they were sufficiently mature. Honestly, I have a hard time even recommending this to most adults There are some that I could confidently recommend it to social workers, secondary education teachers, etc However, to the general population, I would be very nervous to recommend this book because it is so blunt and raw At the same time, I can't not recommend it or rather, if somebody with adequate maturity sensitivities picked up the book and asked if it was worth reading, my answer is YES. This is a hard book to get through due to emotional and moral sensitivities However, it raises some excellent action points to the reader to think about the state of humanity and the system welfare, schools, etc. It's not something I'll read again and again but it's something that I'll think about for a long time 4 stars

