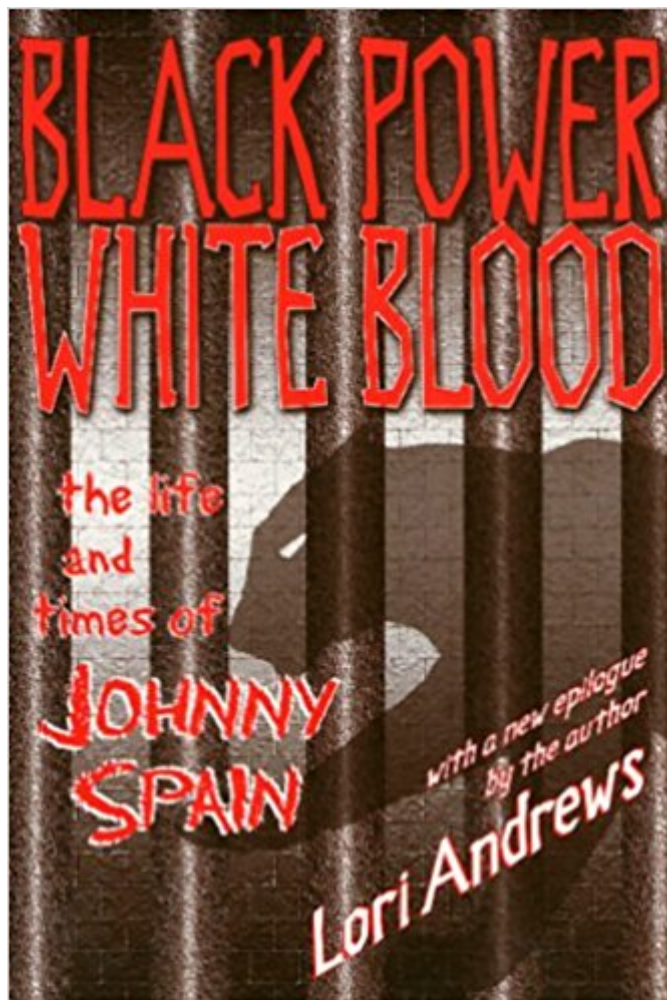




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# Black Power White Blood



## Synopsis

Conceived within a clandestine relationship between a black man and a married white woman, Spain was born in Mississippi during the mid-1950s. This title portrays the dehumanizing conditions in the prisons, the pervasive abuses in the criminal justice system, and the case for overturning Spain's conspiracy conviction.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Johnny Spain was one of the "San Quentin Six," who was convicted of a conspiracy to escape the prison. His life story, reconstructed by lawyer and author Andrews, has moments both sad and stirring. The son of a liaison between his married white mother and a black lover, Spain was sent from Jim Crow Mississippi to live with a black family in California, but he found neither love nor peace. Convicted in 1966 of a murder committed during an impetuous robbery, Spain was thrust into California's prison system, where authorities cultivated racial animosities among inmates and where guards shot to kill. There, Spain learned the brutal ropes and became radicalized. Also, thanks to Black Panthers George Jackson and Elaine Brown, Spain grew to accept his white heritage. Despite strong evidence that Spain's conspiracy conviction was illegitimate, he gained no reprieve from the court system; rather, he became a peacemaker among prisoners, and ultimately reconciled with his mother. Finally, in 1988, he was granted parole. Spain now works in community relations in San Francisco. Given Spain's impressive journey out of prison, the reader wishes for more information on his doings since 1988 and his reflections on current debates about prison and

race. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Johnny Spain's life provides the raw material for a potentially fascinating biography. Spain, who was born in 1949, had a white mother and an African American father. As a child he did not feel fully accepted by members of either race. Early in his life, he became involved in various criminal activities and spent over 20 years in California prisons. There, Spain became a leader of the Black Panther Party and in the prisoners' rights movement of the 1960s and 1970s. Spain was released from prison in 1988 and currently works as a community organizer in San Francisco. Unfortunately, attorney Andrews's biography has serious deficiencies. It is not just sympathetic to Spain but sometimes borders on adulation, which limits the author's ability to analyze Spain's life seriously. Despite Andrews's many interviews with Spain, her depictions of some of the major events in his life are cursory and need further explication. An optional purchase for public libraries.-?Thomas H. Ferrell, Univ. of Southwestern Louisiana, LafayetteCopyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

GREAT BOOK! \*\*\*NO SPOILERS\*\*\*I am biased though. I have met Johnny Spain the person. I was in high school and College age to young adult all the years I knew him.I had heard about his history but never asked him much about it. Though when i did speak to him about it...his reply was, i was young and never should have been involved. I can accept that. After reading this book...i really had much more love and care for the person I called a friend.I don't know where he is now...i'm old 46 now as of September 8, 2015....so he's got to be much older than that.He really gets a lot covered and the writer Lori Andrews I met once when he brought her to the playground where we all met to play our weekly basketball game(no, nothing about us or the basketball game is in the book) this is strictly about Johnny and the life he was born into.He's been through so much. Its really a touching book and I'll love him as a friend that much more if i see him again.

Moving, well told.

Very good book. I couldn't put it down. It combined Black history and the personal story of a bi-racial person. I would highly recommend this book.

Former Panthers and the academics that write about them are starting to seriously realize that the

Panthers were never just about race alone. Biographies by Elaine Brown and Assata Shakur deal with gender and the Panthers. Edmund White's biography of Jean Genet discusses how the Panthers dealt with a gay, white, foreign supporter. Now, in this book about an Afro-European Panther named Johnny Spain, Andrews looks at how a mixed-race individual was affected by the Party. Andrews writes in a simple style that would make this biography accessible to almost any reader. By moving from the stereotyped tragic mulatto to becoming a "bridge person" and cross-racial activist, this book is about redemption. I can imagine it influencing mixed-race men in the same way that Malcolm X's autobiography has influenced monoracial black men (though X was one-quarter white). One major theme of this book is how inhumanely prisoners are treated in American jails. This book should be appreciated by prisoners' rights activists regardless of race and multiracial activists regardless of their views on prisoners. ... Finally, there is a book that works against this tide. I would strongly encourage every mixed man in the US to read this book.

This is an eye-opener and indictment of the United States prison system and particularly the horrifying way it treated black prisoners. Also of the FBI and media which vilified the Black Panthers and other black activists, in many cases unfairly. Most of all this is a wonderfully satisfying story of redemption. The detail obtained by the author and the subsequent depth of her descriptions and fleshing out of the main character are unparalleled and reflect the 7 years she spent relentlessly interviewing Johnny Spain. ã ã Black Power White Blood

I have met Johnny and talked with him at length. It's difficult to reconcile this story with the person that I know. He is the least bitter person I have ever met and he works tirelessly for a common good. He is a very bright spark in our world.

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