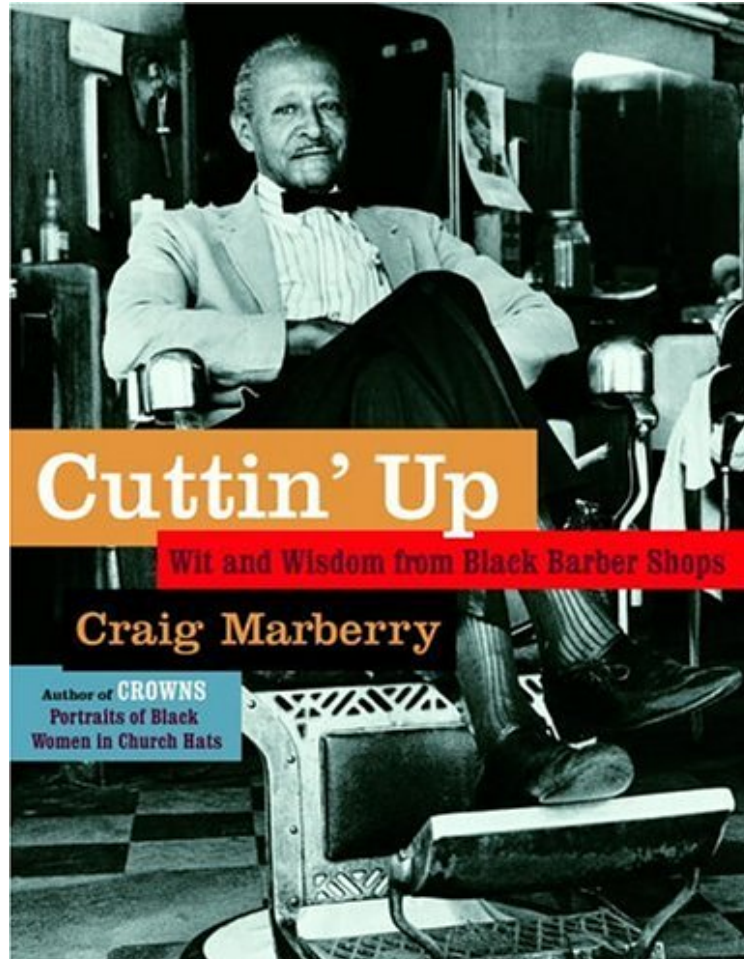


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Cuttin' Up: Wit and Wisdom From Black Barber Shops

Craig Marberry

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Craig Marberry : *Cuttin' Up: Wit and Wisdom From Black Barber Shops* before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Cuttin' Up: Wit and Wisdom From Black Barber Shops*:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *Cuttin' Up: Wit and Wisdom*By T. JohnsonI've been admiring this book from afar for a long time now and finally bought it recently. My only regret is that I did not buy it sooner. When I received the book it was a one day read for me. I actually learned a lot from reading this collection of memoirs. By far, the most amazing story in this book was that of a certain Barber who was the cousin of Emmitt Till (We all know who that is). That story, by itself, is worth the price of this book. And, he even supplied a pic of him and Emmitt when they were very young to back the story up. This is one of those writes that reminds you how important The Barbershop, that we tend to take for granted, is in the community. I appreciated this book very much and would recommend this to anyone interested in getting a more in depth look at the world of barbering. So, please buy this very interesting book, If not or yourself, purchase it for someone else.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Great! It was a gift to my brotherBy nitaGreat! It was a gift to my brother. He is a Barber. Said it was excellent book!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Funny and well receivedBy Woman of WisdomUsed some of the wit and wisdom in this book for a Men's program. Funny and well received!

In *Crowns* and *The Spirit of Harlem*, journalist Craig Marberry took oral history to a new level. Here, in *Cuttin' Up*, he presents more pitch-perfect portraits so good you'll feel like you're eavesdropping. *Cuttin' Up* celebrates the laid-back fellowship of men in a barber shop, the place, as Marberry writes, "where we go to be among ourselves, to be ourselves, to unmask." Crisscrossing the country from Detroit to Orlando, Brooklyn to Houston, Marberry listened in on conversations that covered everything from reminiscences about the first haircut---a sometimes comic rite of passage---to spirited exchanges about women, to serious lessons in black history and current events. His collection of the wit and wisdom of patrons and barbers---including the small but scrappy subset of women barbers and the father of a very famous celebrity---brings together an irresistible and often touching chorus of voices. Marberry has created a book that sings with the handsome beauty of the oral tradition that is the cornerstone of the black barber shop experience. A portion of the proceeds from this book support the Maya Angelou Research Center on Minority Health at Wake Forest University.

From Publishers WeeklyThe author of *Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats* (a collaboration with photographer Michael Cunningham) shifts his focus from hats to hair with this celebration of the black barber shop, "one of the nation's earliest black businesses [and]... as much a think tank as it is a comedy showcase." Over the course of 18 months, Marberry traveled around the country to document that particular "barber shop atmosphere." In Detroit, a policeman waxes poetic about a good "Razor Line" haircut; in Nashville, Oprah Winfrey's barber father, Vernon, jokes: "Somebody asked me if Oprah is my only child. I said, 'The only one so far.'" Along with the cutting quips and clipping tips, each barber and patron offers a little slice of life; topics include black history, celebrity clients, raids on unlicensed barbers, robberies, murders and the attitudes of female barbers: "It's tough for a woman in a barber shop. They say it's the black man's country club." Sixty bw photos show the faces behind the commentary, but only some locations are identified; shop names aren't supplied, and curiously, shop exteriors aren't shown. And though Marberry is a fine writer, he gives only four pages of his own words. (May 10) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistMarberry, author of *Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats* (2000), explores another black cultural phenomenon--the barbershop. The shops are an institution of fellowship in which black men commune, where there are unwritten social rules of tradition, where conversations can entertain and enlighten. World issues are interwoven with more localized and mundane concerns, including job woes and troubled relationships. Marberry visited black barbershops across the U.S and observed numerous exchanges between barbers and their customers that reflect a forum for teaching in an informal context. Marberry reflects on some of the traditions of black barbers, the fact that black barbers used to cut white men's hair but could not do so in the same shops where they cut black men's hair. The black barbershop, like the church, was--and is--a central outlet for news and connections. Marberry touches on black barbers' involvement in the civil rights movement, as businessmen operating central news stations in the black community. Vernon FordCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved Craig Marberry, best-selling author of *Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats*, returns with an unforgettable collection of narratives, quotes, and photographs from the most sacred of spaces---the black barber shop---and reveals the camaraderie, comic turns, and sharp-tongued commentary of barbers and their customers: "The cop's gonna come. The preacher's gonna come. The gangsta's gonna come. The barber shop's the one place where you can put the wrong people at the same time."---Reginald Attucks, barber shop owner "I trust Bush with my daughter, but Clinton with my job."---An anonymous customer "I asked the boy what happened to his head. He said, 'Daddy said to say Mama did it.'"---Deborah Rondo, barber "I'm seventy-one. Old but not spent. Somebody asked me if Oprah is my only child. I said, 'The only one so far.'"---Vernon Winfrey, barber shop owner