



## Dreads

By Francesco Mastalia, Alfonse Pagano

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Dreadlocks are a modern phenomenon with roots reaching as far back as the fifth century. According to ancient Hindu beliefs, dreads signified a singleminded pursuit of the spiritual. Devotion to God displaced vanity, and hair was left to its own devices.

*Dreads* captures this organic explosion of hair in all its beautiful, subversive glory. One hundred duotone portraits present dread-heads from around the world, in all walks of life. Interviewed on location by the photographers, *jatta*-wearers wax philosophic about the integrity of their hair, and every stunning image confirms their choice. Alice Walker puts words to pictures, offering lyrical ruminations about her decision to let her own mane mat.

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## Dreads By Francesco Mastalia, Alfonse Pagano Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #398415 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Artisan
- Published on: 1999-01-10
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 12.06" h x .56" w x 10.31" l, 2.10 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 144 pages

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

YA-This large, coffee-table type book with black-and-white photographs looks at the wide diversity of people who sport this knotted, ropelike hairdo. Some display it theatrically, while others wear it to stress their individuality. Others have religious or political reasons. The author also looks at dreadlocks in history, including the priests of the Ethiopian Coptic Church who have been locking their hair since the fifth century and the Rastafarian movement, which began religiously in Ethiopia. There is an introduction by Alice Walker as well as a 20-page treatise on "Sacred Rites of the Natural Hair Revolution." The 100 plates of men, women, and children in various cultures and at varying levels of modernity show this amazing hairstyle doing its thing in variety and abundance. The hair itself arouses interest and speculation as to the time involved in achieving it, the intricacies of the hygiene, and simply the wonder of it all.

*Frances Reiher, Fairfax County Public Library, VA*

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From the Inside Flap

Dreads. Jatta. Ndiagne. Palu. Natty, knotted, ropelike locks. Curly knobs, tiny plaits, intricate weaves.

Dreads are a modern phenomena with roots that reach as far back as the fifth century. According to ancient Hindu beliefs, dreadlocks signified a singleminded pursuit of the spiritual. Devotion to God displaced vanity, and hair was left to its own devices. In the West, locks are a relatively recent fashion, born of the Black Power movement of the sixties and the infiltration of reggae into popular music.

In "Dreads," photographers Francesco Mastalia and Alfonse Pagano capture the rebels of this natural hair revolution in all their beautiful, subversive glory. One hundred duotone portraits present dread-heads from all walks of life: a Brooklyn postal worker, a Japanese farmer, an Indian sadhu, a Jamaican drummer. Interviewed on location by the photographers, jatta-wearers from around the world wax philosophic about the integrity of their hair, and every stunning image confirms their choice. In her introduction, Alice Walker offers lyrical ruminations about her decision to let her own mane mat.

Today, trendsetters in Tokyo pay thousands of yen to have their poker-straight hair literally drilled into locks. The fact that the young and hip now go to such extremes to imitate what was originally a statement against artificiality proves the growing popularity of dreads. From a nappy-topped newborn to a Rastafarian elder with hair roped around his waist, "Dreads" rejoices in the essence of the individual, set free by an organic explosion of hair.

From the Back Cover

I couldn't imagine those black ropes on their heads were hair...natural hair to which nothing was added, not even a brushing...I wondered what such hair felt like, smelled like. What a person dreamed about at night, with hair like that spreading across the pillow...

—from the introduction by Alice Walker

"Beautiful book, beautiful hair, beautiful people, beautiful exhilarating spirituality. I loved it and love my (our) hair." —Anne Lamott author of *Traveling Mercies*

"Dreads is an exquisite artistic testament to the individuality of the men and women who make dreads not only a look but a way of life. These cross-cultural images demonstrate that the human visage is the first

artistic canvas we have access to."—Farai Chideya author of *The Color of Our Future*

"There is always the question of whether you grow locks or your locks grow you. This book shows dreadlocks that are funky, elegant, sexy, dramatic, spiritual—and always beautiful. It makes me very happy to be nappy."—Veronica Chambers author of *Mama's Girl*

Photographed on location in Jamaica, Japan, New Zealand, Kenya, Namibia, Ethiopia, Angola, Senegal, India, and the United States

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### Louise Wax:

Here thing why that Dreads are different and dependable to be yours. First of all reading through a book is good but it really depends in the content of the usb ports which is the content is as yummy as food or not. Dreads giving you information deeper including different ways, you can find any book out there but there is no book that similar with Dreads. It gives you thrill looking at journey, its open up your current eyes about the thing this happened in the world which is perhaps can be happened around you. You can actually bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your way home by train. For anyone who is having difficulties in bringing the branded book maybe the form of Dreads in e-book can be your alternate.

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#### Kimberly Kiser:

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**Shalon Fisk:**

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