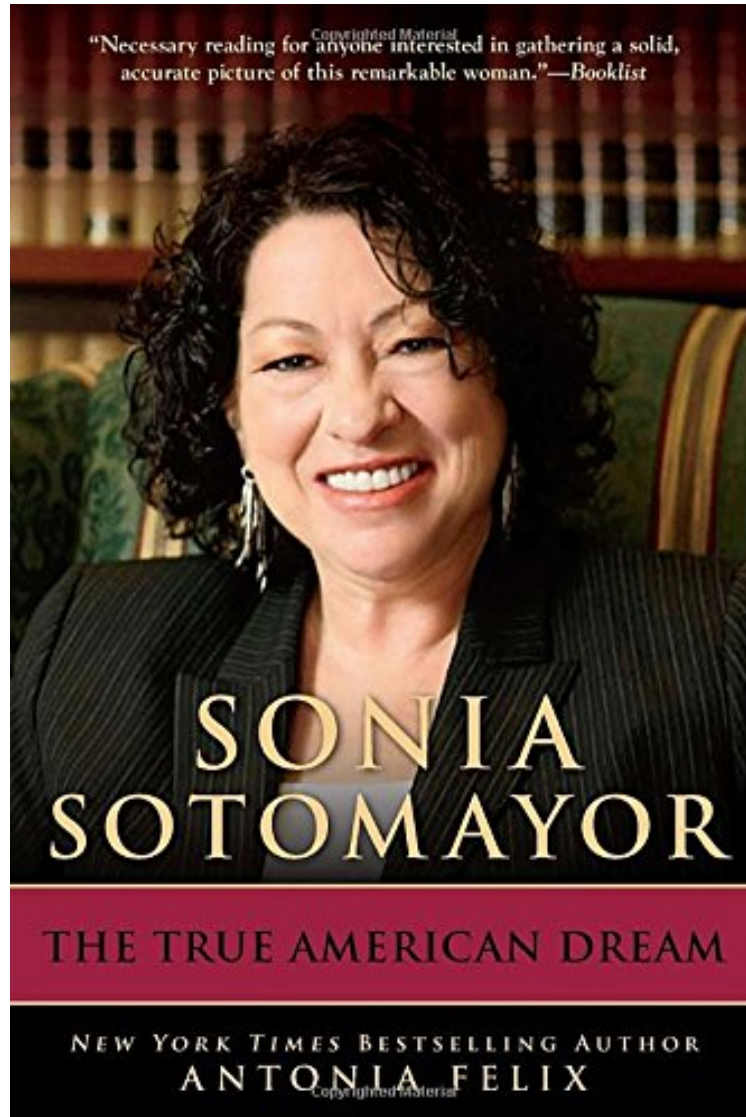


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## Sonia Sotomayor: The True American Dream

Antonia Felix

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**Antonia Felix : Sonia Sotomayor: The True American Dream** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sonia Sotomayor: The True American Dream:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Legend in Her Own TimeBy Phyllis Antebi Ph.DWhat makes this book most interesting are the comments made about Supreme Court Justice, Sonia Sotomayor. Her work ethic, self-discipline, her confidence, her judgement, her generosity, her good nature, her sociability, her warmth, her commitment, and last but not least, her devotion to her mother. Actually, more can, has, and will be said about this remarkable woman. Sotomayor's judicial judgement seems to be impeccable. In addition, we know from Felix that her

subject is not a wealthy woman, despite her significant income. Apparently, she gives and loans out to friends and relatives, whatever their financial necessities might require. No one, however, would call Sotomayor generous to a fault because, she has no faults. The only thing she can not do, is, walk on water! Not yet, anyway. For all its informative qualities, the book seems to lack something very fundamental to a good biography. That is, I believe, an intimate, first hand knowledge of the person you are talking about, especially if that person were still alive. In other words, while research is of course required, Felix's journalistic style feels detached and her information, quite dry. Do I recommend this book? Yes, I do. Sotomayor is too significant a person for us to ignore. We should know who she is. We should know what important colleagues have said about their experiences with her. We should become familiar with her rulings, especially her contribution to ending the baseball strike, and fighting against the racket of counterfeit goods passing for brand names, in particular, Fendi brand named products. Sotomayor is a hands on judge. If she needs to get her hands dirty to stop a crime, she will, and has, frequently. We know she has poise and modesty to balance her insatiable appetite to learn and do good for the constituents involved in each case. In addition, Sotomayor's record on the bench, suggests that she is no slouch when it comes to sentencing a defendant. Felix is credible, despite her approach. I did not feel that she exaggerated what appear to be, totally remarkable traits, because, Felix tended to quote others often and with sufficient detail and context to be convincing. Overall, "The True American Dream" appears to be exactly that; a dream that may inspire other woman, especially Hispanic women, to follow their calling.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Contemporary Heroine By Gemma Sotomayor offers us, particularly women and especially young women, a model, a heroine of our time. Sonia Sotomayor could have become someone so much less worthy or our admiration, so much less well-educated, less passionate and less compassionate. Instead, because of the bonds of a close and loving family, with the help of a society anxious to reward hard work and high intellect and because also of the attention of exceptional teachers, Sotomayor rose to unprecedented heights for a woman of her economic background and ethnicity. Sotomayor's memoir is touching in its truthfulness; because she wrote without ghostwriter and wrote about not just the good that happened to her and her family, but the unfortunate circumstances which she overcame.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. BORING and lacking literary substance By Tracykae Be aware this is an unauthorized biography. Sonia Sotomayor was not interviewed by the author. There is no real story here. The author interviewed some distant relatives for some tidbits and took the rest from public records and the media. It's a very dry chronological summary of the judge's life, much of it is about her education and early career. I had hoped for some real insight about Ms. Sotomayor or some inspiration about her path, but I got nothing out of this read. I wouldn't have bothered to finish it if it weren't for the fact that my book club was reading it this month and it's my turn to host. It was about as painful as I could stand.

"Necessary reading" (Booklist) from a New York Times bestselling biographer. Drawing on in-depth interviews with Sonia Sotomayor's former colleagues, family, friends, and teachers, New York Times bestselling biographer Antonia Felix explores Sotomayor's childhood, the values her parents instilled in her, and the events that propelled her to the highest court in the land. With insight and thoughtful analysis, Felix paints a revealing portrait of the woman who would come to meet President Obama's rigorous criteria for a Supreme Court justice, examining how Sotomayor's experiences shed light on her Supreme Court rulings-and how she will continue to write her great American legacy.

From Publishers Weekly Because Sotomayor's mother was raised in Puerto Rico in "a context of poverty" unseen in the United States, she worked hard to instill in her daughter, Sonia, the belief that "education was the key to everything." Even so, when Sotomayor arrived at Princeton and realized the gap between her skills and those of students from elite high schools, she spent the next summer reading classics and reviewing grammar books. Felix, who has written biographies of Laura Bush and Condoleezza Rice, provides anecdotes to illustrate Sotomayor's pluck and perseverance. During a recruiting dinner with a large law firm, for instance, Sotomayor accused the interviewer of asking discriminatory questions, filed a complaint against the firm, and petitioned Yale to drop their recruiting privileges. Sotomayor's impressive resume includes jobs with the Manhattan DA's office (the first time she "had given any thought to public service other than the State Department"), Pavia Harcourt, where she worked on the "Fendi contra counterfeiting program," and the distinction of becoming the first Hispanic judge on a federal bench in New York. Readers looking for a riveting and meticulously researched book on the Supreme Court Justice will be engrossed. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist Sotomayor is a history-maker by virtue of her ethnic background and gender: the first Hispanic and only the third woman to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court. Best-selling biographer Felix's biography of Associate Justice Sotomayor is journalistic in tone and treatment, but it is good, responsible, nonsensational journalism, proving to be necessary reading for anyone interested in gathering a solid, accurate picture of this remarkable woman. Bronx-born and -raised, she benefited from her mother's emphasis on the importance of education. (Sonia has been unstinting in her praise of her mother as the locus of her success in school and after.) Her undergraduate years at Princeton informed the rest of her life; law school at Yale gave her a professional focus. Five years in the district attorney's office in New York City did nothing less than imprint her with the legal skills and approach to the law that would define the rest of

her career. Later, she transitioned from corporate lawyering to the federal bench, and the rest is history though a history yet to be concluded. --Brad Hooper  
About the Author  
Antonia Felix is the author of more than fifteen nonfiction books, including bestselling political biographies of Condoleezza Rice and Laura Bush. She has appeared on CNN, MSNBC, FOX News, and many other networks. She lives in Kansas City, Kansas.