Written by BY TERRY MATHEWS, News-Telegram Arts Editor Tuesday, 08 November 2011 12:52



Manning Marable spent the final two decades of his life working on "Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention," a book that has been called the definitive biography of Malcolm Little, a/k/a Detroit Red and, most famously, Malcolm X.

Dr. Marable was the M. Moran and Black Alumni Professor of African-American Studies, Professor of Black Affairs, Political Science and History and Director of the Center for Contemporary Black History at Columbia University in New York City.

Given unprecedented access to the family, Dr. Marable has done a remarkable job unwrapping the myths surrounding Malcolm X, who was a master at shapeshifting, morphing a thousand times from the hardscrabble days of his youth to when he led one of the most powerful civil rights movements of the 1960s.

While this book is not a quick, easy read, it's important because it sheds new light on the life of a charismatic man who set about to make a difference, one incarnation at a time.

Dr. Marable died on Friday, April 1, just four days prior to the release of this historic work.

Godspeed.