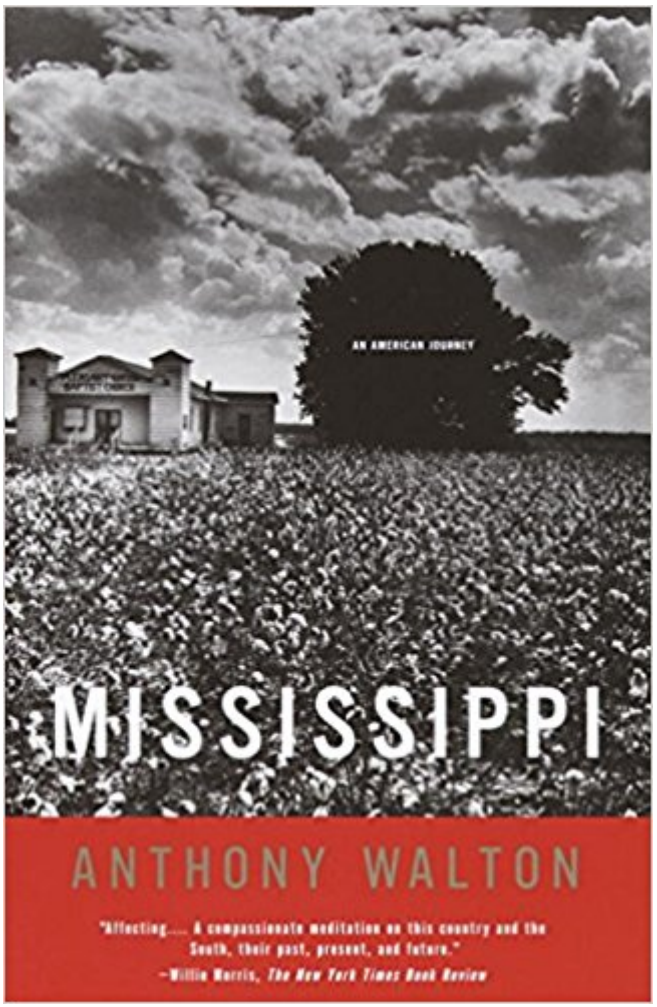
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Mississippi: An American Journey



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Synopsis

Ã Â To most Americans, Mississippi is not a state but a scar, the place where segregation took its ugliest form and struck most savagely at its challengers.Ã Â But to many Americans, Mississippi is also home.Ã Â And it is this paradox, with all its overtones of history and heartache, that Anthony WaltonÃ¢â ¬â •whose parents escaped Mississippi for the relative civility of the MidwestÃ¢â ¬â •explores in this resonant and disquieting work of travel writing, history, and memoir. Traveling from the Natchez Trace to the yawning cotton fields of the Delta and from plantation houses to air-conditioned shopping malls, Walton challenged us to see Mississippi's memories of comfort alongside its legacies of slavery and the Klan.Ã Â He weaves in the stories of his family, as well as those of patricians and sharecroppers, redneck demagogues and martyred civil rights workers, novelists and bluesmen, black and white. Mississippi is a national saga in brilliant microcosm, splendidly written and profoundly moving.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

At 30, Walton, a black man raised middle-class in Illinois, found himself questioning his identity and his heritage. So he took a journey both southerly and inward, through Mississippi, where his parents grew up and where American racism has been most entrenched. His tale meanders, combining travelogue, interviews, meditation, even his own poetry (awkwardly used to punctuate sections); one section consists of a chorus of voices, including those of Faulkner, Ellison and bluesman Robert Johnson. Certain moments resonate, such as Walton's visits to a historically preserved plantation

and to the Ole Miss campus, full of Confederate memorabilia. He comes to appreciate the enormous effort of his "taciturn, often remote" father to give his son the privileges he himself never had. Walton’s conclusion: we must learn the history of Mississippi to understand America’s racial dilemma. His book is one of deeply felt inquiry, but it suffers from its poor organization. Photos. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Essential reading for anyone who wishes to understand the troubled soul of the South.

Well written in memoir style, the author takes a journey into his past. He ruminates about the culture and his candid responses to prejudice and progress. Interesting and it was interesting and helpful to me to come to understand his perspective.

book was great! amazing story. shipping was fast, book was brand new.

Easy to read

great!

An outstanding look into the history of the tortured history of race relations in America’s most oppressive state.

Came just a couple days after the first estimated delivery. No writing on the book, a couple of stickers from half priced book store/ thrift books, but they came off pretty quickly and didn’t leave marks on the book at all! Glad I bought it because it was definitely a bargain.I have not read the actual book it, as it’s a summer reading for my ap english class!I did read the book.. It was boring for the most part, very historical. But if you’re like me and don’t mind history, you won’t mind this!

This book may have been the most dry piece of writing I have ever read hands down. I am a High School student in AP english and this book was required for the class. I picked it up and ten minutes in i thought of shooting myself in the foot if I had to read anymore of it. Long story short i skimmed the entire book and I never read or looked at this book ever again. DONT WASTE YOUR TIME AND MONEY ON THIS EXCUSE FOR A BOOK!

HAVING GROWN UP IN LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI, A TOWN OF APPROXIMATELY 20,000 IN THE STATE'S SOUTHERN END, I WAS PLEASED TO FIND ANTHONY WALTON'S BOOK SPEAK NOT ONLY TO THE COMPLEX HISTORY OF MISSISSIPPI AND IT'S RACE RELATIONS, BUT THE PRESENT - AND HOW THE PAST DOES (OR FOR SOME FOLKS DOES NOT) INFORM THE PRESENT. HE WEAVES AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY WITH THE LARGER HISTORY OF THE NATION AND WITH REMINISCINGS WHICH, ALL TOGETHER, SPELL OUT A SMART AND HEART-FELT PORTRAIT OF THE IMMEASURABLY DIFFICULT TRANSITION FROM THE DAYS OF THE "PECULIAR INSTITUTION". IS MISSISSIPPI INTEGRATED TODAY? NOT BY A LONG STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION. BUT WALTON HELPS US TO PUT THIS IN PERSPECTIVE - ALLOWING US TO WITNESS THE HORROR OF THE PAST AS WELL AS HELPING US TO REALIZE THAT CHANGE - ESPECIALLY IMMMENSE CHANGE - TAKES DECADES, IF NOT CENTURIES. INSIGHTFUL, WARM, AND HIGHLY READABLE.

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