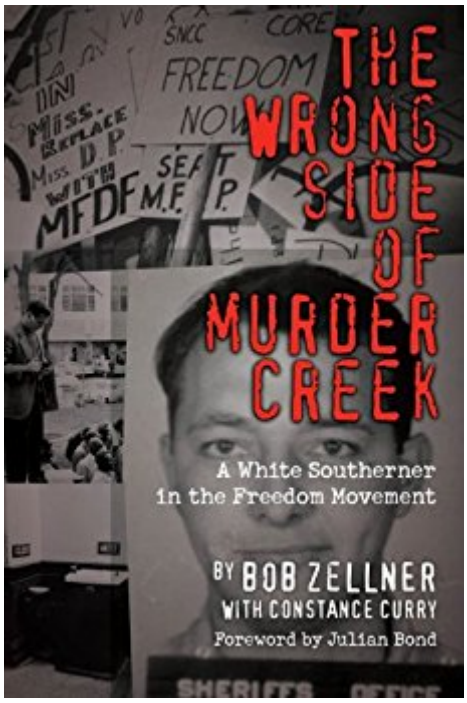
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The Wrong Side Of Murder Creek: A White Southerner In The Freedom Movement



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Synopsis

Even forty years after the civil rights movement, the transition from son and grandson of Klansmen to field secretary of SNCC seems quite a journey. In the early 1960s, when Bob ZellnerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s professors and classmates at a small church school in Alabama thought he was crazy for even wanting to do research on civil rights, it was nothing short of remarkable. Now, in his long-awaited memoir, Zellner tells how one white Alabamian joined ranks with the black students who were sitting-in, marching, fighting, and sometimes dying to challenge the Southern Ã¢â ¬Å“way of lifeÃ¢â ¬Â• he had been raised on but rejected. Decades later, he is still protesting on behalf of social change and equal rights. Fortunately, he took the time, with co-author Constance Curry, to write down his memories and reflections. He was in all the campaigns and was close to all the major figures. He was beaten, arrested, and reviled by some but admired and revered by others. The Wrong Side of Murder Creek, winner of the 2009 Lillian Smith Book Award, is Bob ZellnerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s larger-than-life story, and it was worth waiting for.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an incredible story about Bob’s early life and later involvement in the civil rights struggle. It is quite pleasing and easy to read as it is written like a Bob is having a conversation over the dinner table with you. I highly recommend this book because it highlights not just Bob’s story, but the depth of the networks and mentoring involved during the civil rights movement. The book is focused on Bob, but it is a great window to the inner-workings of the movements, the struggles and dedication of so many who often go overlooked. Readers who read this book will have a more well-rounded view of the struggle,rather than the more common perspective centered around high profile "celebrity" heroes like King and Parks.

This is a really great book on the Civil Rights Movement, and should appeal to a variety of interests. It’s a great memoir from a white member of the movement who was widely accepted by people of all skin colors. Thus, if one is a young activist of a majority status looking to be a part of a minority movement, Zellner practically gives a how-to manual. That said, it is also a really unique look at the movement itself. Zellner was obviously about as on the ground as you can get, and worked as a field organizer for SNCC. Thus, as his story vividly shows, he was really in the thick of the action. All in all, the book isn’t necessarily the most well written book, but it’s fascinating and reads very easily.If you’re very interested in the organizing done for the Civil Rights Movement, I would read this and I’ve Got the Light to Freedom by Charles Payne.

Sat next to the author on a flight and told him I would order his book!

Zellner’s anecdotal approach to being a white Southerner in the right place at the wrong time amuses on the surface but reveals the seriousness of the efforts he made to challenge and attempt to defeat the brutality of the Deep South. His humor seems to take the edge off what he has to say but in reality makes his message even more powerful.Thus, his father’s Klan robe is sewn into white Sunday shirts for him and his brothers and the family stands behind him in his fight as a civil rights activist in Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. His education at a white Methodist college in Alabama almost gets him killed in McComb, Mississippi, but his pluck and perseverance remain his calling card throughout.This work is a must read as a statement of a white Southerner who remains even today a fighter for the rights of the oppressed black in the Deep South.

Read this book for my Social Protest class , great read, it allows readers to understand the civil rights movement from another perspective . Now only if Bob Zellner would respond to invites to

come to the Rutgers Newark campus .

I enjoyed several days of travel with Bob Zellner on a civil rights bus trip before reading the book. He is a great story teller who mixes humor with deep insight to bring out the humanity as well as the social/political forces at play in the movement. Not sugarcoat or sanitized.

It's a chilling, exhilarating book that makes me think, makes me remember the 60s and beyond. It tells the stories that are behind the stories. it tells the hard truths that go behind the scenes, what really happens to those you read about in the papers. it's about the enduring efforts to make life better for all people, not just white folks. It's about the people who don't stop working for justice.

Bob Zellner is the son of a man who was a close friend of my father, Rev.J.F. McLeod Jr. They were a part of a group that was leading the fight against the seperation ofthe races. We lived on the right side of Murder Creek in Brewton, Alabama. I was off inthe US Army During most of this time but I recall my father telling about the crossthat was burned in the front yard of the Parsonage. This wonderful book brought backmemories of that time of turmoil in this country. I recomend it to anyone who isinterested in knowing about this time!

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