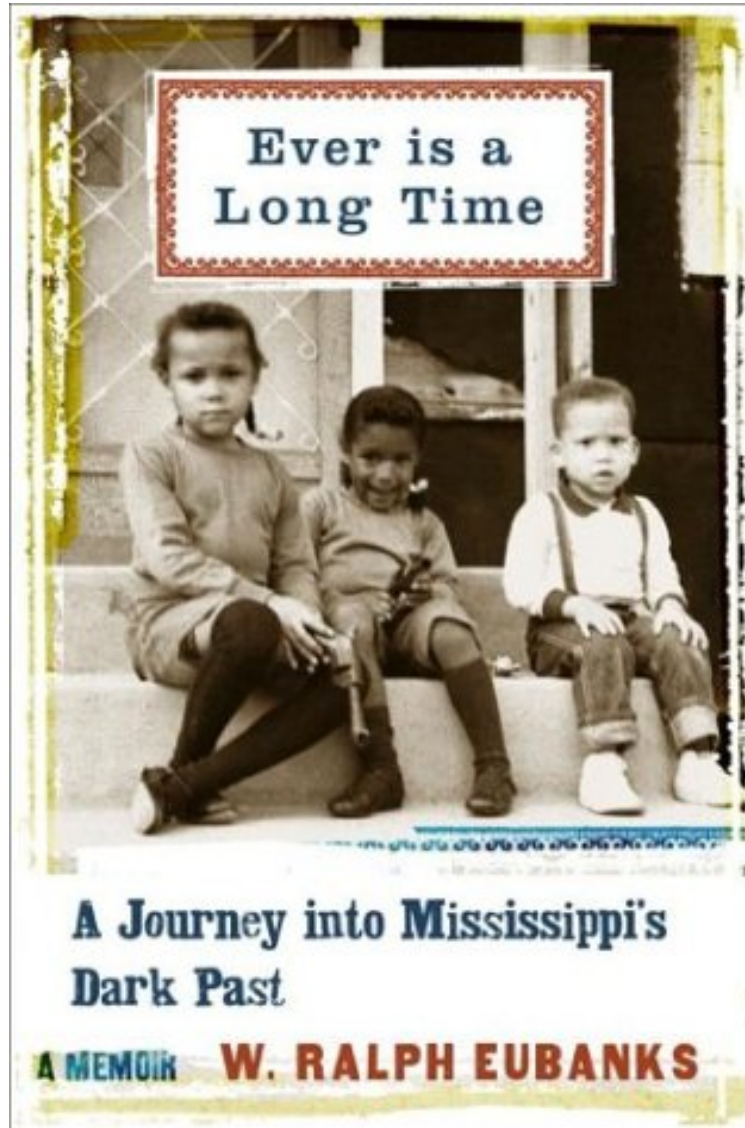


(Download ebook) Ever Is A Long Time: A Journey Into Mississippi's Dark Past A Memoir

Ever Is A Long Time: A Journey Into Mississippi's Dark Past A Memoir

W. Ralph Eubanks

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W. Ralph Eubanks : Ever Is A Long Time: A Journey Into Mississippi's Dark Past A Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ever Is A Long Time: A Journey Into Mississippi's Dark Past A Memoir:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Cultured Gift IndeedBy RYCJGoing beneath and beyond a personal journaling of narratives Mr. Eubanks' expounds on a system that raised him and his family, and many others

living inside and around Ole' Miss's Delta. The title alone hones in on this contention; harmonizing the phrase one of Mississippi's Governors made when answering the question, "...whether the public schools in Mississippi would ever be integrated. It, therefore, became a stretch reading this account in a long time ago sequence, when this sequence of events still conjures so much remembrance, and values, and even a reworked system of beliefs and perspectives (albeit, not all negative) that I'd rather learn from, than turn away from. The mannerisms and culture I've come into contact with befriending people as refined as the Eubanks', who lived and lives in Mississippi, probes my mind wanting to know where these auspiciously well-bred customs derived. And honestly, this time, however many would like to forget, (to include those still bearing scars), was not so long ago. Ever Is A Long Time is a necessary rendering of empowering significance, one I commend Eubanks' for writing. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Poignant memoir of a deeply flawed society By Jonathan Groner This book deserved much more notice than it received when it came out. Ralph Eubanks left Mississippi many years ago, but Mississippi never left him. For decades, he harbored the desire to understand his home state's strange fascination, and the release in 1998 of the records of the state's Sovereignty Commission, which was designed to keep segregation in effect, gave him an opportunity to look back at his past. Eubanks always knew that his parents intentionally shielded him from the ugliness and the violence of Mississippi in the 1950s and 1960s, but until he began to delve into the commission's records, he did not know how much shielding had actually gone on. He and his three sisters enjoyed a close family life and nurtured a sense of pride, even superiority, to the white people around him -- even while Klansmen and their supporters were targeting "outside agitators" and "communists," their names for whites and blacks who wanted to end segregation. Eubanks writes in a clear, straightforward style, mixing memory with present reality. He avoids cliches and brings to life a time long past. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A very important story. By S Morris This book was one of the most well written books I have read in a long time. It is also a very important story that I think should be mandatory reading in 8th grade as well as for everyone who has experienced the 1960's or heard about how the south fought integration. A fight that continues today in the Nation's capital, Washington, DC.

Like the renowned classics *Praying for Sheetrock* and *North Toward Home*, *Ever Is a Long Time* captures the spirit and feel of a small Southern town divided by racism and violence in the midst of the Civil Rights era. Part personal journey, part social and political history, this extraordinary book reveals the burden of Southern history and how that burden is carried even today in the hearts and minds of those who lived through the worst of it. Author Ralph Eubanks, whose father was a black county agent and whose mother was a schoolteacher, grew up on an eighty-acre farm on the outskirts of Mount Olive, Mississippi, a town of great pastoral beauty but also a place where the racial dividing lines were clear and where violence was always lingering in the background. *Ever Is a Long Time* tells his story against the backdrop of an era when churches were burned, Medgar Evers and Martin Luther King were murdered, schools were integrated forcibly, and the state of Mississippi created an agency to spy on its citizens in an effort to maintain white supremacy. Through Eubanks's evocative prose, we see and feel a side of Mississippi that has seldom been seen before. He reveals the complexities of the racial dividing lines at the time and the price many paid for what we now take for granted. With colorful stories that bring that time to life as well as interviews with those who were involved in the spying activities of the State Sovereignty Commission, *Ever Is a Long Time* is a poignant picture of one man coming to terms with his southern legacy.

From Publishers Weekly Eubanks, the Library of Congress's publishing director, opens this capable memoir with an innocent question from one of his sons: "Daddy, what's Mississippi like?" In earnest prose, the author tries to describe "the world that shaped him" with its rigidly defined social code of race and class, using an almost coolly detached approach similar to the low-key demeanor of his father, a former county agent who earned much less than his white peers. While Eubanks applauds the changes that have occurred since Jim Crow laws ruled, he recalls with dread a terrifying incident when his "mixed marriage" drew hateful stares. He's almost sentimental when remembering his shielded childhood on the family farm outside the town of Mount Olive, where segregation's strict social laws were enforced. Eubanks's pleasant, unchallenging narrative can grind, as it drones on about his childhood home, "an idyllic place where racism and intolerance had no place." But that placid tone dissipates when he speaks forcefully of racial murders, the killing of civil rights leader Medgar Evers and the state's white citizens' deep hatred of Northerners. The book's unnerving sections come in Eubanks's revelations about the ultra-secret Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission, which kept files on its black citizens-including Eubanks's parents-during the civil rights era. As the book ends, it seems Eubanks is content to tie off his occasionally uneven mix of restrained horror and romanticized yearning with a neat bow, reconciling both past and present and leaving the perfect opening for a well-positioned sequel. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Eubanks' fond memories of growing up in Mount Olive, Mississippi, in the 1960s were tinged with a reality he was loathe to admit until his young sons began asking about his childhood home. The innocent inquiries of his mixed-race children sent Eubanks exploring the darker side of life in the rural community during the turbulent civil rights era. His father, a county agent, and his mother, a schoolteacher, raised their four children on an 80-acre farm they owned to shield them from most of the racial

indignities visited on townsfolk. But his research leads him to the records of the State Sovereignty Commission, charged with maintaining white supremacy, and the discovery that both his parents--NAACP members but hardly activists--were listed as targets of surveillance. Research, interviews, and personal recollections of school desegregation, demonstrations, church burnings, and the murders of Medgar Evers and Martin Luther King offer a poignant look at a small southern town during a tumultuous period. Vanessa BushCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "A charming remembrance of a rural boyhood ... a chilling reminder of racism's legacy ... [and] a rich context for understanding the segregated South."