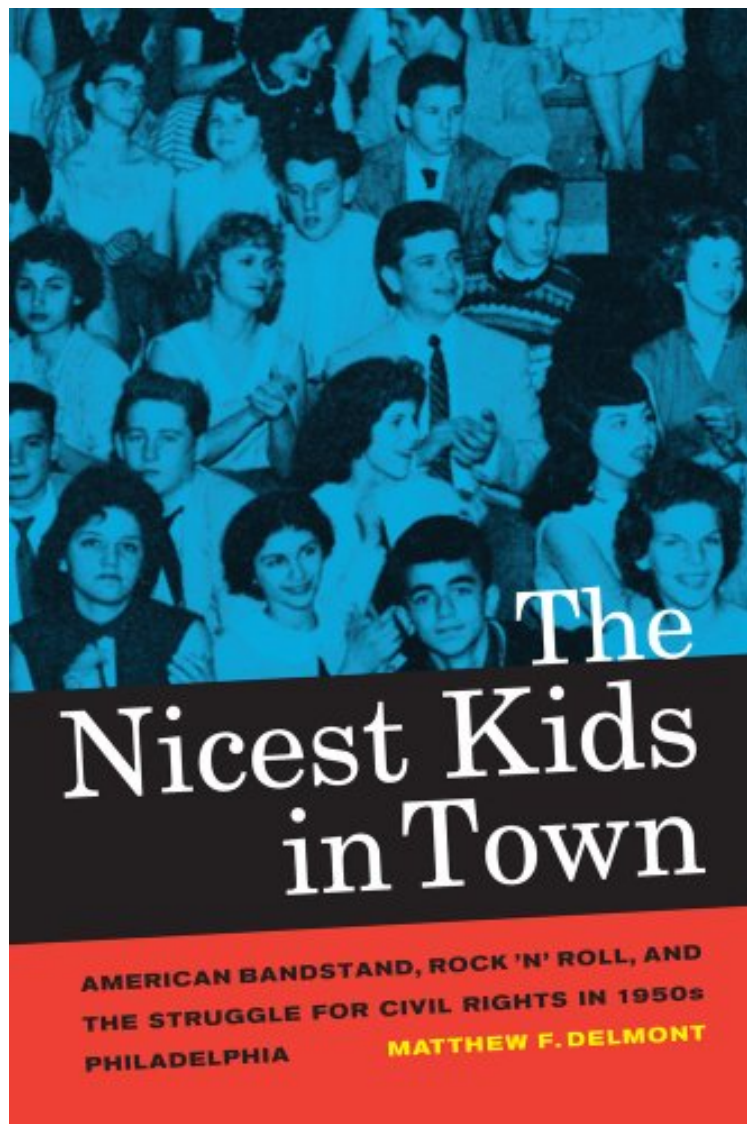


(Download) The Nicest Kids in Town: American Bandstand, Rock 'n' Roll, and the Struggle for Civil Rights in 1950s Philadelphia

The Nicest Kids in Town: American Bandstand, Rock 'n' Roll, and the Struggle for Civil Rights in 1950s Philadelphia

Matthew F. Delmont

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Matthew F. Delmont : The Nicest Kids in Town: American Bandstand, Rock 'n' Roll, and the Struggle for Civil Rights in 1950s Philadelphia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Nicest Kids in Town: American Bandstand, Rock 'n' Roll, and the Struggle for Civil Rights in 1950s Philadelphia:

4 of 7 people found the following review helpful. WordyBy BoA little wordy I thought it was going to be about Band Stand but it was about a lot more and I had to put it down because it was just too much0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Thomas B. GarrettI lived thru this experience7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Nicest Kids in TownBy atibamaniI absolutely recommend this book to all Americans! Especially since the recent passing of Dick Clark.Mr. Delmont reminds us of two important things about the U.S. in the 1950s 1960s that still resonate in 2012. 1) American Bandstand was an American commercial enterprise that was not in the forefront of segregation, and 2) American Bandstand's mission was to reach a new growing teenaged consumer population. The show was designed for that from the beginning, meaning that its purpose was not only to reach as many teens as it could, and therefore sell as much product as possible, but also to keep from offending as many of those teens, and their parents, as possible.You cannot have it both ways. You cannot increase your ratings on commercial television by taking a stand on a very controversial subject, such as race relations and integration were in the 1950s 1960s. It couldn't be done then, and it can't be done now!This is also an excellent history of segregation in housing, education, employment, and overall opportunity in Philadelphia that represents a microcosm of the United States.

American Bandstand, one of the most popular television shows ever, broadcast from Philadelphia in the late fifties, a time when that city had become a battleground for civil rights. Counter to host Dick Clark's claims that he integrated American Bandstand, this book reveals how the first national television program directed at teens discriminated against black youth during its early years and how black teens and civil rights advocates protested this discrimination. Matthew F. Delmont brings together major themes in American history—civil rights, rock and roll, television, and the emergence of a youth culture—as he tells how white families around American Bandstand's studio mobilized to maintain all-white neighborhoods and how local school officials reinforced segregation long after Brown vs. Board of Education. The Nicest Kids in Town powerfully illustrates how national issues and history have their roots in local situations, and how nostalgic representations of the past, like the musical film Hairspray, based on the American Bandstand era, can work as impediments to progress in the present.

“Reveals a hidden history of racial segregation on the United States' first television program centered on the teenage population. . . . Provocative.”