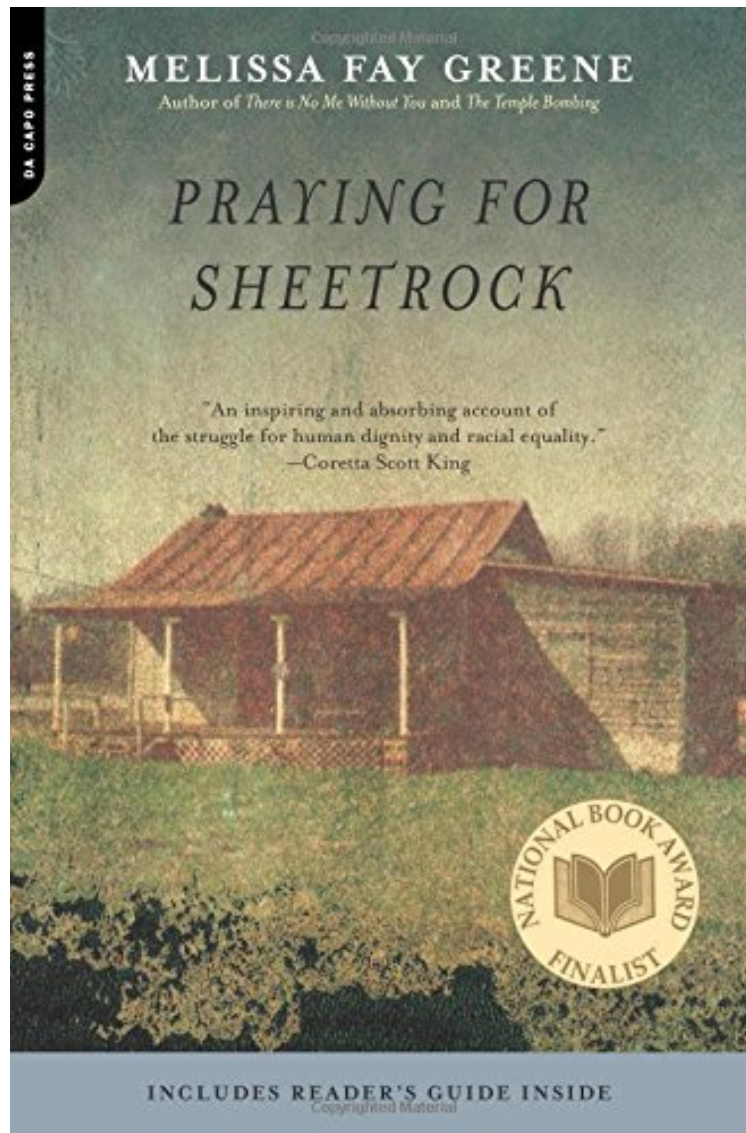


[Free] Praying for Sheetrock: A Work of Nonfiction

Praying for Sheetrock: A Work of Nonfiction

Melissa Fay Greene

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Melissa Fay Greene : Praying for Sheetrock: A Work of Nonfiction before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Praying for Sheetrock: A Work of Nonfiction:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A really good read By conradI'm a photographer and when we travel it's on back roads. This book is about one of those areas we found and return often. It happened in southeast Georgina in the county from top to bottom runs highway 17 which was the highway from every where to Florida. That road was like a hucksters paradise and con men and women from all the wrong places picked and fleeced tourist . The story is about the black and whites who lived there and the Sheriff that ran the county. It's just a good story very well done by a

great author that gives a real in site into the lives of real people.COST: 1c, 3.99 shipping and worth a fortune. Almost all of the people who live in small towns every where are not like we think they are just because we think they are. Travel, through a place and time that is no longer there. I-95 has changed the East Coast, North and South for better and worse, but I love it all for one reason or another. God bless you all, or "y'all" or "youse guys" I know thats not how it's spelled,but to my ears thats how it sounds, one country,many good people..5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Praying for Sheetrock - a great history lesson of McIntosh CountyBy K. McCranieI first borrowed the book and read it several years ago, and I wanted to have my own copy. The book is well written and is written from a personal standpoint by someone who knows the area and is personally familiar with the occurrences. If you have any connection to McIntosh County or the south Georgia coast, it is worth reading; and even if no connection, it gives a depiction of small town corruption and is worth reading. I enjoyed it very much.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book really opened my eyes as to the relations ...By Bobby MuggridgeThis book really opened my eyes as to the relations between the white and black community during this time. I was born and raised in the South and was not aware of the injustice as to how the African race was treated.

Finalist for the 1991 National Book Award and a New York Times Notable book, Praying for Sheetrock is the story of McIntosh County, a small, isolated, and lovely place on the flowery coast of Georgia--and a county where, in the 1970s, the white sheriff still wielded all the power, controlling everything and everybody. Somehow the sweeping changes of the civil rights movement managed to bypass McIntosh entirely. It took one uneducated, unemployed black man, Thurnell Alston, to challenge the sheriff and his courthouse gang--and to change the way of life in this community forever. "An inspiring and absorbing account of the struggle for human dignity and racial equality" (Coretta Scott King)

.com Despite what it said in the New York Times or the Congressional Record, not everybody in America got the word right away about the civil rights movement. Thus it was that well into the 1970s, McIntosh County in backwoods Georgia remained a place where the black majority still had never elected one of their own to any county office, where black kids were bused away from the white school, and where the white county sheriff had his hand in every racket there was. Praying for Sheetrock is the saga of how, thanks to the leadership of a black shop-steward-turned-county-commissioner named Thurnell Alston, together with the aid of a cadre of idealistic Legal Services lawyers (Melissa Greene was one of their paralegals) this situation began to change. The story, written as grippingly as a novel, is charged with twists that only nonfiction can deliver; for example, Alston, for all the brave good he did, ultimately got caught in a federal sting and went to jail while the corrupt sheriff walked. This is, writes Greene, a story of "large and important things happening in a very little place."From Publishers WeeklyAs the first black commissioner of McIntosh County, Ga., retired boilermaker Thurnell Alston brought the civil rights struggle to a coastal backwater in the 1970s. He initiated voting rights lawsuits, fought drugs and introduced medical clinics, plumbing and running water to "a forgotten county needy in every way." A threat to corrupt Sheriff Tom Popell, who ruled the county as his fiefdom, Alston challenged the "good old boy" patronage system. But the irascible commissioner became increasingly distanced from his constituency and, after his youngest son's tragic death in 1983, he neglected his wife and children in escapist pursuits. The target of a government sting operation, he was convicted of drug conspiracy charges in 1988 and sentenced to six and a half years in federal prison camp, where he remains. By turns inspiring and sad, his story is told with dramatic skill by Atlanta journalist Greene. 75,000 first printing; \$75,000 ad/promo; author tour. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalIt's hard to believe that this powerful story of the political awakening of the black community in McIntosh County, Georgia took place in the 1970s. Untouched by the civil rights movement, this isolated rural county was long dominated by a renegade sheriff until a series of events resulted in the election of Thurnell Alston as the first black county commissioner since Reconstruction. Greene's use of the actual words of county residents adds an air of truth that cannot be denied. This book needs to be read by everyone who does not know the deep South and by those who think all of our racial problems were corrected in the 1960s. Young adults of all races would find this more enlightening than many history books. For most collections. --John W. King, Univ. of Mary land Libs. , College ParkCopyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.