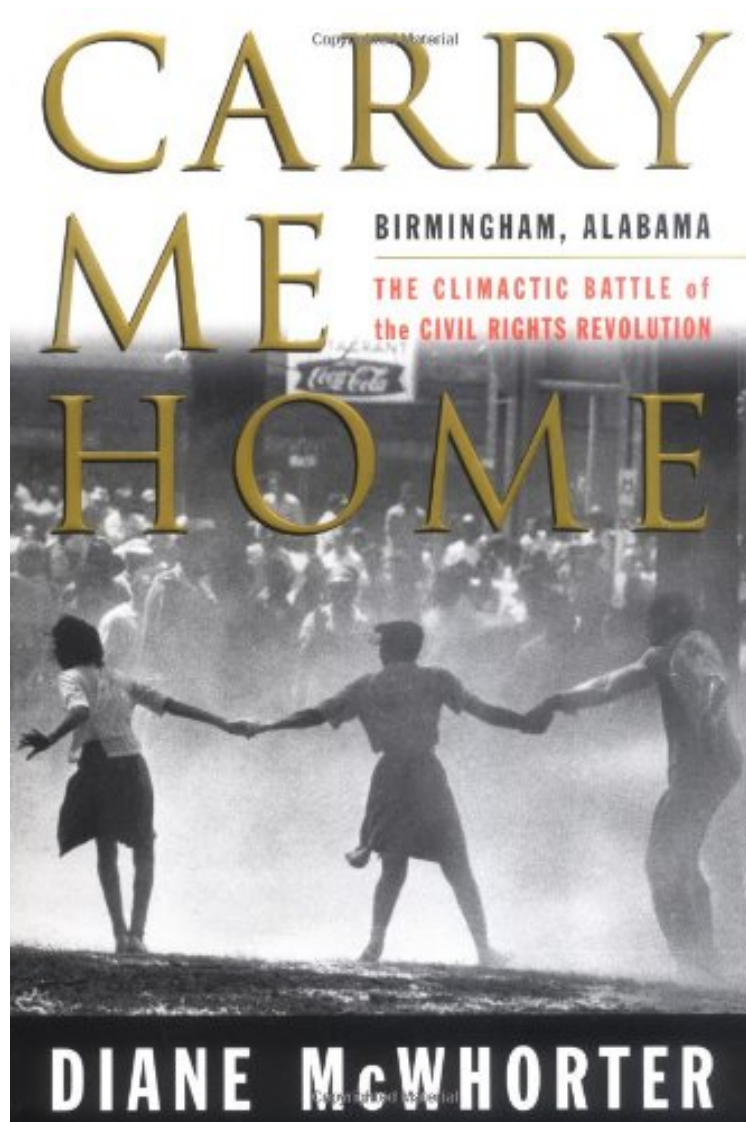


(Free and download) Carry Me Home : Birmingham, Alabama: The Climactic Battle of the Civil Rights Revolution

## Carry Me Home : Birmingham, Alabama: The Climactic Battle of the Civil Rights Revolution

*Diane McWhorter*

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**Diane McWhorter : Carry Me Home : Birmingham, Alabama: The Climactic Battle of the Civil Rights Revolution** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Carry Me Home : Birmingham, Alabama: The Climactic Battle of the Civil Rights Revolution:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. If you do not openly sob at the closing of this tale you missed its

message. By wsmr As a southerner and as a fellow student at the Monterey Defense Language Institute in 1965 with FBI agents being reassigned from their stint in Birmingham Alabama I have personal connections to Diane McWhorter incredible story of the breaking of Jim Crow in the years she covers by what came to be called the Civil Rights Movement. J. Edgar Hoover's FBI was a mark on our history along with other law enforcing agencies, local state and federal as Ms McWhorter well reveals. It is part of her tale. Until I saw that she has spent 19 years on intense research it was impossible to imagine she might have acquired the detail interactions of the participants in that drama. The outstanding actor is Fred Shuttlesworth and on my reading that at the entrance to his final resting place, "at the wooded entrance to the historic downtown graveyard, a giant American flag swelled from the extended ladder of a Birmingham fire truck," I could not suppress a thunderous sob. Who might look forward to reading *Carry Me Home*, very few I suspect. It lays open a grotesque sore of American History and the author's technique of laying down detail, hour by hour day by day, is trying to any reader; take it in small doses but persist for there is pleasure in knowing that for almost all Americans today North and South that sore was well lanced by Shuttlesworth and his better known assistances'; we are healthier people for it. But healthier is not synonymous with well as McWhorter goes on to show discussing more current Birmingham Alabama and American events. The author's sections entitled 'McWhorter' goes a long way towards explaining motivation for the book, as father and family holds a role as racist, if not bomber. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Detailed study of the historical turning point in modern American history By Leon Lam This book is a study of the history of race relations in Birmingham, Alabama from late 1930s to 1963, the year of the bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. McWhorter provides a comprehensive account of the story of the Pittsburgh of the South. As she presents, resistance to integration was not only the view of the extreme fringe of the white community, but also a nuanced consensus that linked the gentlemen in country clubs and humbler working class families together. The vestige of white supremacy, still largely intact in the older generation, should be embraced but not intentionally ignored. The solid work is a cornerstone of the plethora of literature on the civil rights movement. Prior knowledge is preferable as the author gives a lot of details on local actors and minor events. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. One of the best books about the civil rights struggle By ColoCustomer It's easily one of the best books I have read about the Civil Rights struggle. McWhorter was a 5th grader in Birmingham, AL the year Birmingham was the focus of the struggle - in one of the leading families there (in a middle class branch). That impacts her writing, not that she heard any of it at the time, but that she knows the culture of the rich who controlled the town. And that drives her in to detail that I think an outside historian would never get. I read in numerous books how Birmingham was the city of hate. And how the children marching was key to the shift in people's views that led to civil rights. But this explained why. With the focus on Birmingham you see the South in detail and how the culture, the local politics, and the specific people impacted and eventually shifted the world. It also paints a complete picture of the key people involved which adds so much. I was reading until I couldn't keep my eyes open any longer at night. And then back to reading the first thing the next morning. Incredibly well written.

A major work of history, investigative journalism that breaks new ground, and personal memoir, "*Carry Me Home*" is a dramatic account of the civil rights era's climactic battle in Birmingham, as the movement led by Martin Luther King, Jr., brought down the institutions of segregation. "The Year of Birmingham," 1963, was one of the most cataclysmic periods in America's long civil rights struggle. That spring, King's child demonstrators faced down Commissioner Bull Connor's police dogs and fire hoses in huge nonviolent marches for desegregation -- a spectacle that seemed to belong more in the Old Testament than in twentieth-century America. A few months later, Ku Klux Klansmen retaliated with dynamite, bombing the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and killing four young black girls. Yet these shocking events also brought redemption: They transformed the halting civil rights movement into a national cause and inspired the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which abolished legal segregation once and for all. Diane McWhorter, the daughter of a prominent white Birmingham family, brilliantly captures the opposing sides in this struggle for racial justice. Tracing the roots of the civil rights movement to the Old Left and its efforts to organize labor in the 1930s, "*Carry Me Home*" shows that the movement was a waning force in desperate need of a victory by the time King arrived in Birmingham. McWhorter describes the competition for primacy among the movement's leaders, especially between Fred Shuttlesworth, Birmingham's flamboyant preacher-activist, and the already world-famous King, who was ambivalent about the direct-action tactics Shuttlesworth had been practicing for years. "*Carry Me Home*" is the first major movement history to uncover the segregationist resistance. McWhorter charts the careers of the bombers back to the New Deal, when Klansmen were agents of the local iron and coal industrialists fighting organized labor. She reveals the strained and veiled collusion between Birmingham's wealthy establishment and its designated subordinates -- politicians, the police, and the Klan. "*Carry Me Home*" is also the story of the author's family, which was on the wrong side of the civil rights revolution. McWhorter's quest to find out whether her eccentric father, the prodigal son of the white elite, was a member of the Klan mirrors the book's central revelation of collaboration between the city's Big Mules, who kept their hands clean, and the scruffy vigilantes who did the dirty work. "*Carry Me Home*" is the product of years of research in FBI and police files and archives, and of hundreds of interviews,

including conversations with Klansmen who belonged to the most violent klavern in America. John and Robert Kennedy, J. Edgar Hoover, George Wallace, Connor, King, and Shuttlesworth appear against the backdrop of the unforgettable events of the civil rights era -- the brutal beating of the Freedom Riders as the police stood by; King's great testament, his "Letter from Birmingham Jail"; and Wallace's defiant "stand in the schoolhouse door." This book is a classic work about this transforming period in American history.

.com The Emancipation Proclamation was issued in 1863, but a contemporary African American saying predicted that freedom would come only after another hundred years of struggle. That prediction was about right: the civil rights struggle erupted in the middle of the 20th century, with its violent epicenter in the industrial city of Birmingham, Alabama. There freedom riders and voter-rights activists faced down Klansmen and Nazis, who had put aside their own differences to cast a pall of terror--and the smoke of a well-orchestrated campaign of church bombings--over the South. Diane McWhorter, a journalist and native Alabamian, offers a comprehensive, literate record of the struggle that covers more than half a century and that involves hundreds of major actors. Her work is solidly researched and highly readable, and it offers much new information. Among the many newsworthy aspects of the book are McWhorter's discussions of internal power struggles within the civil rights movement, the uneasy role of Birmingham's small Jewish population, and the collusion of local government--especially swaggering Police Commissioner Bull Connor. The author also addresses the segregationist and white-supremacist movements and recounts the tortuous quest to bring the church bombers to justice, which was finally accomplished in 2000. *Carry Me Home* is a worthy and highly recommended companion to Taylor Branch's *Parting the Waters* and Andrew Young's *An Easy Burden*. --Gregory McNamee  
From Publishers Weekly  
The story of civil rights in Birmingham, Ala., has been told before from the unspeakable violence to the simple, courageous decencies but fresh, sometimes startling details distinguish this doorstep page-turner told by a daughter of the city's white elite. McWhorter, a regular New York Times contributor, focuses on two shattering moments in Birmingham in 1963 that led to "the end of apartheid in America": when "Bull Connor's police dogs and fire hoses" attacked "school age witnesses for justice," and when the Ku Klux Klan bombed the 16th Street Church, killing four black girls. Yet she brings a gripping pace and an unusual, two-fold perspective to her account, incorporating her viewpoint as a child (she was largely ignorant of what was going on "downtown," even as her father took an increasingly active role in opposing the civil rights movement), as well as her adult viewpoint as an avid scholar and journalist. Surveying figures both major and minor civil rights leaders, politicians, clergy, political organizers of all stripes her panoramic study unmasks prominent members of Birmingham in collusion with the Klan, revealing behind-the-scenes machinations of "terrorists on the payroll at U.S. Steel" and men like Sid Smyer, McWhorter's distant cousin, who "bankrolled... one of the city's most rabid klansmen." McWhorter binds it all together with the strong thread of a family saga, fueled by a passion to understand the father about whom she had long harbored "vague but sinister visions" and other men of his class and clan. (Mar. 15)  
Forecast: McWhorter's prominence and her willingness to name names as well as her exhaustive research and skillful narrative virtually guarantee major review attention. Bolstered by an eight-city tour and a pre-pub excerpt in *Talk* in February, the 50,000-copy first printing should move fast.  
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From Library Journal  
Journalist McWhorter (the New York Times) offers a three-part chronicle of Birmingham, AL, the crucial battleground of the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. A daughter of privilege, she puts her homefolk's resistance to black civil rights in a national context. But her signal contribution is her account of life inside Fortress Segregation. She reveals the intimate workings and absolutism of segregation, which she dubs "a civilization more peculiar than slavery." Her detailed portrait of white intransigence and retaliation climaxes in 1963 with Police Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor's dogs and the September 15 dynamiting that killed four black girls at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. McWhorter's literate, often barbed, well-referenced local history with a family twist is a feat of reporting that belongs alongside David Halberstam's *The Children* (LJ 2/15/98), Taylor Branch's *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-1963* (LJ 1/89. o.p.), and such works on Birmingham as John Walton Cotman's *Birmingham, JFK, and the Civil Rights Act of 1963* (1989). Recommended for all collections on civil rights and U.S. or Southern history.- Thomas J. Davis, Arizona State Univ., Tempe  
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