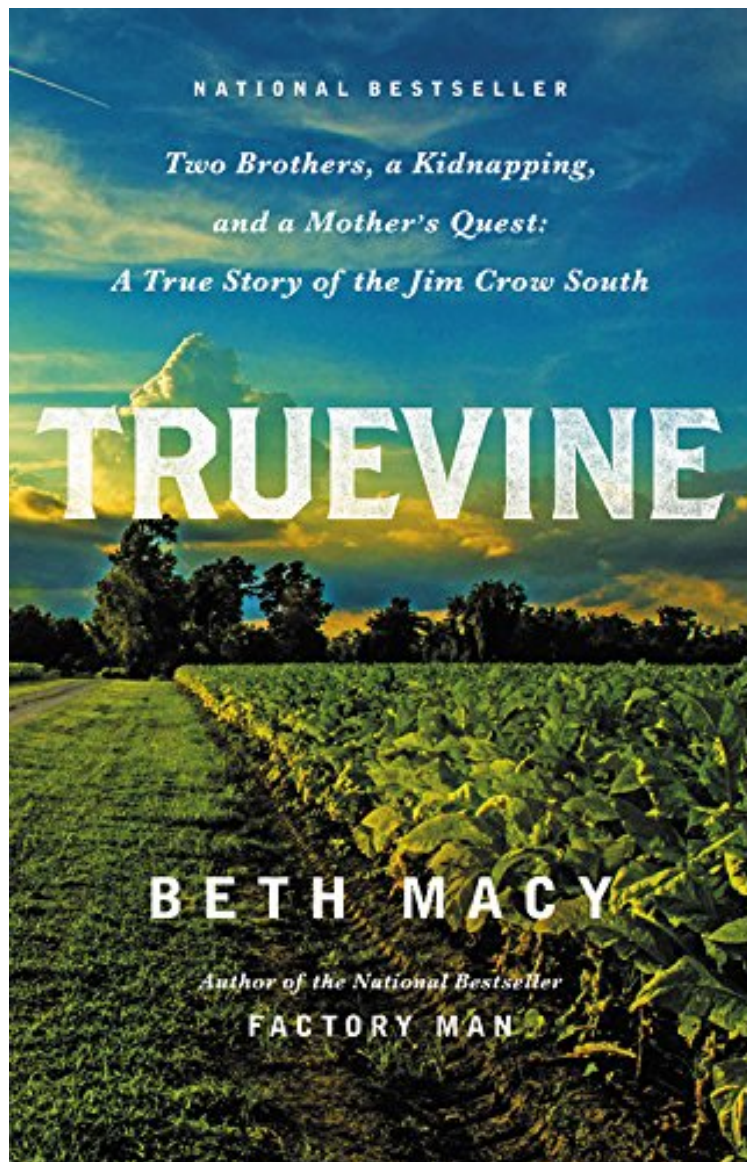


(Mobile library) Truevine: Two Brothers, a Kidnapping, and a Mother's Quest: A True Story of the Jim Crow South

Truevine: Two Brothers, a Kidnapping, and a Mother's Quest: A True Story of the Jim Crow South

Beth Macy

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#188686 in Books Macy Beth 2016-10-18 2016-10-18Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.50 x 1.13 x 6.50l, .0 #File Name: 0316337544432 pagesNATIONAL BESTSELLER The true story of two African-American brothers who were kidnapped and displayed as circus freaks, and whose mother endured a 28-year struggle to get them back. | File size: 41.Mb

Beth Macy : Truevine: Two Brothers, a Kidnapping, and a Mother's Quest: A True Story of the Jim Crow South before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Truevine: Two

Brothers, a Kidnapping, and a Mother's Quest: A True Story of the Jim Crow South:

67 of 70 people found the following review helpful. The very fact that I have been able to live my life NOT acknowledging this terrible history in my hometown is proof of my white privilege. I have followed Beth Macy's writing for decades. She was a feature writer for my local newspaper, and I always looked forward to her articles. So I knew she would tell a compelling story in her new book "Truevine" -- the story of two albino African-American brothers exploited by the circus in the early 20th century. But I didn't expect to learn more about myself in the process. In part, I learned how oblivious I have been. I have lived all these years in Roanoke only having an idea that the truths of racism existed. I can recall the unrest at my elementary and middle schools when they were finally integrated, and I remember wondering why it was such a big deal. I have never considered myself to be racist, and I judge others for being bigoted. I have felt moral outrage by the racism that was so unabashed in George and Willie's day and still does exist, but in truth, I have always thought that the most violent and blatantly racist events happened/happen in "The South". I chose not to know about the lynchings that took place in Roanoke at the turn of the century, and the prominence of the KKK here, led by a member of the very church I now attend. I mean, I kind of knew, I suspected it could have happened here too, but I didn't REALLY know. The very fact that I have been able to live my life NOT acknowledging this terrible history in my hometown is proof of my white privilege -- the white insulation from the truth. I'm thankful for the stories people shared with Beth Macy, especially Janet Johnson and Mabel Pullin's honesty in the chapter "White Peoples Is Hateful". Macy is the kind of deep listener who folks can trust enough to tell her important things. Thanks to those folks and to Macy for this gift of the truth.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Terrific Historical read, loved it! By Customer I enjoyed this book and though it was a bit different than I was expecting, I learned so much about the circus, exploitation of people with disabilities and deformities. I live in Roanoke, Virginia, and to this day, sadly, it remains very much a segregated city. I've often wondered why it is so, and this book actually helped me understand why, starting from how Roanoke came to be, from a village of 500 people. It started up geographically segregated, and racial tensions were extremely high, including every citizen, I'm those days. The story of the brothers touched me, as their lives were ones of unofficial slaves for decades. Their mother was a remarkable woman, showing fierce determination and perseverance to locate her kids, and over the next 40 years, make their lives better. I'd say, she was also a shrewd investor for her era. Wow, she socked money away for the boys and bought land and a home. Enough can't be said of the unspoken hero, Nancy! Loved her big heart which showed throughout the book. Ms. Macy has opened my eyes quite a bit to racial discrimination, and how the African American community is affected. Great book! Highly recommend! Happy ending too.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Macy's Book Breaks Down Legend, Lore of Muse Brothers By Beth Bird Living near Roanoke and having read Macy since her reporter days with the Roanoke Times, I am a fan who couldn't wait to get my copy of Truevine once it became available. It is a compelling story with local (to me) history and landmarks. An interesting read! Thoroughly researched, as was Factory Man, Macy comes across as a bit of a crusader for civil rights in her second book. She presented the facts well; I wish she had taken a step back and let the facts speak for themselves once presented, instead of going a step further and becoming an interpreter also.

NATIONAL BESTSELLER

.com An Best Book of October 2016: At the center of Beth Macy's exhaustively researched and fascinating Truevine are two brothers, either abducted or bartered to a circus where the African American albinos were forced to present themselves as "Ambassadors from Mars," or "White Ecuadorian Cannibals," or "Sheep-Headed Men" (no matter the iteration, they could play mandolin and guitar, too!). George and Willie Muse traveled the world, even performing for the Queen of England, while their mother remained in the Jim Crow South, not knowing where and how they were. She never gave up hope, however, and nearly three decades later they were reunited, setting off a protracted legal battle, the result of which ensured that her sons would be paid their due. Now think about that for a second. It's almost easier to believe that her children were, in fact, from Mars than to accept that a black woman was able to utilize and benefit from a legal system during a time when lynchings were still horrifyingly common. And yet that's how determined and fearless she was. Macy deftly, and with palpable reverence, captures the extraordinary bond between the three of them—a bond unscrupulous scouting agents, greedy circus owners, a perfidious father, and 28 years of separation couldn't break. But this isn't a story with a bow tacked on at the end. There is an uncomfortable thread that runs throughout: For all mother Muse did to bring her boys home, did the circus provide a better one? A place where the "freaks" found community, purpose--where their otherness was exploited, but also celebrated? (Even rewarded?) And there are other complex racial questions Truevine raises, questions we are still grappling with today. It's a multi-layered story that will captivate, haunt, and challenge you. --Erin Kodicek, The Book A New York Times Notable Book of 2016 One of Janet Maslin's Top 10 Books of 2016 in the New York Times One of The San Francisco Chronicle's Top Ten Books of 2016 One of the Best Books of 2016 - , Kirkus, The Tampa Bay Times, The Houston Chronicle, BookPage, St. Louis Post-Dispatch A Kirkus Prize Finalist Longlisted for the Carnegie Medal for

Excellence A New York Times Book Editors' Choice Named one of fall's most anticipated titles by Vulture, Entertainment Weekly, Kirkus, The Millions, Literary Hub and others!"It's the best story in town,' a colleague told Beth Macy decades ago, 'but no one has been able to get it.' She now has, with tenacity and sensitivity. She gives a singular sideshow its due, offering these 'Ambassadors from Mars' a remarkable, deeply affecting afterlife."?Stacy Schiff, author of *The Witches*"This compelling account of one family's tragic exploitation provides an important lens through which America's tortured racial history and the cruel legacy of Jim Crow can be seen anew."?Bryan Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy* and founder and director of the Equal Justice Initiative"Taking us into the dark corners of American history that are discussed only in whispers, Beth Macy shines a bright light on the racial profiteering of circus freak shows and the Jim Crow South. In the remarkable *Truevine*, Macy manages to do what all the exploitative showmen wouldn't dare; she humanizes the Muse brothers, and in doing so, she has written an unforgettable story of both heartbreak and enduring love."?Gilbert King, author of *Devil in the Grove*"A consummate chronicler of the American South spotlights the extraordinary history of two kidnapped African-American brothers enslaved as a circus sideshow act... Macy vividly illustrates circus life during the 1920s, and she movingly depicts how the brothers' protective, determined mother, Harriett, eventually discovered and rescued them almost a decade and a half later... A sturdy, passionate, and penetrating narrative. This first-rate journey into human trafficking, slavery, and familial bonding is an engrossing example of spirited, determined reportage."?Kirkus (starred)"Macy's exploration of the long-hidden fate of two young African Americans and how that fate illuminates the atrocities of the Jim Crow South is as compelling as Rebecca Skloot's *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*...both are absolutely stunning examples of narrative nonfiction at its best...Certain to be among the most memorable books of the year."?Connie Fletcher, *Booklist* (starred review)"Beth Macy has a way of getting under the skin of American life, burrowing into the seemingly ordinary to find the weird and wonderful taproots of our society. This true tale from rural Virginia will enrage you, inspire you, make you shake your head and rear your fist. And as the pages keep turning, you'll feel yourself slipping into a gothic world of freaks and geeks, and surreal racial thinking, that seems both deeply strange and yet, sadly, all too familiar."?Hampton Sides, author of *In the Kingdom of Ice, Blood and Thunder*, and *Americana*"If over a hundred years ago there had been Black Lives Matter, the mother of George and Willie Muse would have joined and marched for the safe return of her sons. Back then, almost a century ago, she could only keep learning and finding folk who agreed she had a right to her family...a right to the love and protection of her sons. Beth Macy in *Truevine* has given us a stirring story of the persistence of faith...the strength of love...in this tale of a mother's journey to reclaim not only her sons but her right to them."?Nikki Giovanni, poet and one of Oprah Winfrey's "Twenty-five Living Legends""Love and kinship impelled Harriet's family to try for a century to protect George and Willie...from a world that saw them as objects for exploitation. Macy, for her part, works hard to illuminate the brothers' story...Macy is a gifted storyteller and a dogged researcher, and readers will be riveted by her account of Harriet Muse's struggle to find her sons."?Edward E. Baptist, *New York Times Book "Expert*...[Macy's] reportorial methods are inspiringly persistent (and [her] books certainly bear that out)...you can feel Ms. Macy's admiration wafting off the page."?Janet Maslin, *New York Times*"Extraordinary... 'Truevine' is at once poignant and rigorous, a compassionate dual biography and a forthright examination of codified racism. Macy is a resourceful reporter and a strong but never showy writer... This book, her second after 'Factory Man,' is the work of a journalist whose persistence, empathy and commitment to accuracy can't be doubted.... 'Truevine' may focus on events that began a century ago, but its guiding spirit couldn't be more urgent."?Kevin Canfield, *The San Francisco Chronicle*About the AuthorBeth Macy writes about outsiders and underdogs, and she is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller, *Factory Man*. Her work has appeared in national magazines and newspapers and *The Roanoke Times*, where her reporting has won more than a dozen national awards, including a Nieman Fellowship for Journalism at Harvard and the Lukas Prize from the Columbia School of Journalism. She lives in Roanoke, VA.