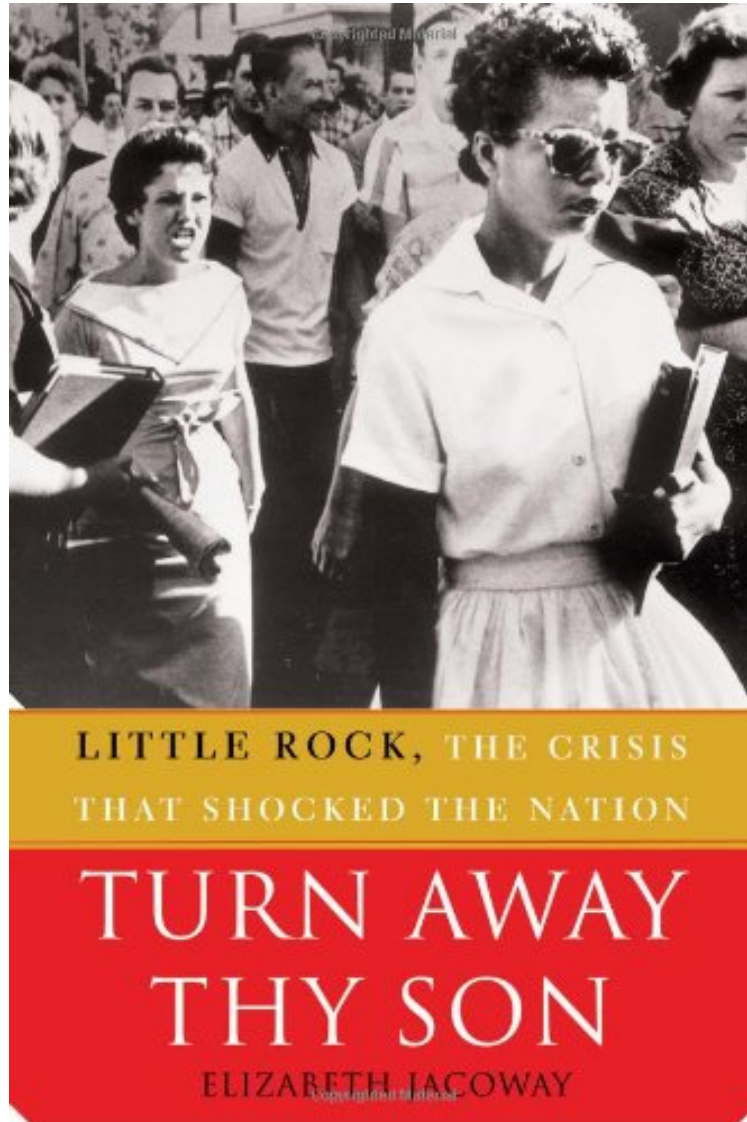


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Turn Away Thy Son: Little Rock, the Crisis That Shocked the Nation

Elizabeth Jacoway

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Elizabeth Jacoway : Turn Away Thy Son: Little Rock, the Crisis That Shocked the Nation before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Turn Away Thy Son: Little Rock, the Crisis That Shocked the Nation:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best book on the subject. By Tony LAs one who has read many books on the Little Rock Nine, this is the best book and it is the one to have. This author has really done here

homework and gives a plethora of footnotes by which to track down the data sources. This book is worth five.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Little Rock School CrisisBy Marcia L. TaliaferroI was there. The author was a neighbor. This is a very detailed and true analysis of the events. I knew many of the people, all of the places and experienced being without a high school first hand. Fifty years later, it is hard to believe that this mentality existed, but it absolutely did. The male politics from Faubus on down are not really so difficult to believe and are amusing and entertaining to re-experience. The rationality of the women who ended the fiasco reflects the responsible element that had to be. This book is a "must read" for all southerners who are now in their mid-sixties.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best Book on the Subject, Even Better than mine!!By Berlin Plamenatz Hart KnappA lifetime's work shows in this excellent history of the Little Rock desegregation crisis. The superb writing and in-depth research make this a great read. I would differ with the emphasis of her general thesis about the role of protecting Southern womanhood, but this is niggling. What is important is that Betsy has written the definitive story of Little Rock's sad time and the first chapter of the history of modern desegregation confrontations in America.

In September 1957 nine black children tried to integrate Arkansas's Little Rock Central High School in accordance with the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Claiming he was acting to keep the peace, Gov. Orval Faubus used the Arkansas National Guard to keep them out of the school. After a lengthy standoff, President Eisenhower called in the 101st Airborne and reluctantly, slowly, but forcibly began to integrate the school. The standoff became a rallying cry for Southern segregationists and a marker of the country's shame. The accounts that have been so mythologized over the years leave people embarrassed and angry, yet the myth is a cardboard cutout of the full story. *Turn Away Thy Son*, told from the point of view of sixteen key participants, brings the nine students, their tormentors, the school administration, the governor, and the press to vivid life. It shows the truth about Little Rock, beyond the caricatures to the fundamental driving forces that made school desegregation the hottest of hot-button issues in the Jim Crow South.

From Publishers WeeklyAlthough the ingredients for a groundbreaking account of the 1957 integration of Little Rock's Central High School are here, this account by the niece of the city's superintendent of schools falls short of its promise. A Little Rock native who went to a different school during the crisis, Jacoway draws on more than 50 interviews of her own, which include all the major players, along with dozens of interviews conducted by others, and private and public manuscripts. But the result is a numbing mass of detail that entombs the drama and its personae. The oral histories add verisimilitude, but the day-by-day, even hour-by-hour, detail is frequently tedious. The total effect is, curiously, a vindication of Gov. Orval Faubus and a reproach of journalist Harry Ashmore and the author's uncle, Superintendent Virgil Blossom. A daring subtext, that the root of the crisis was "a white fear of miscegenation," frames the book in preface and afterword. Jacoway's insight that "female questioning could somehow threaten the established order" also makes her particularly attentive to the roles women played in causing and calming the crisis. The result is an informative but dully written book. (Jan.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistThe earliest stirrings of the civil rights movement roughly coincided with the rapid increase in the number of home television sets. As a result, many of the searing images from Montgomery, Alabama; Philadelphia, Mississippi; and, of course, Little Rock, Arkansas, were burned into our national consciousness. In September 1957, nine black students attempted to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, despite the opposition of Governor Orval Faubus. All over our nation, citizens saw the hate-filled mobs spewing racial epithets. Jacoway, who grew up in Little Rock during the crisis and its aftermath, has utilized numerous interviews of witnesses, politicians, students, and observers who played parts in the dramatic events there. The result is an absorbing and surprising account that reveals our nation at its best and worst. It is also a balanced and scrupulously fair story. Faubus, demonized by many, was actually a moderate on racial issues, and he did attempt to find a middle road that would balance moral considerations with political realities. But Jacoway does not shrink from showing the ugly face of racism, motivated, in her view, by a chronic, obsessive fear of miscegenation. Jay FreemanCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "A lucid and revealing key to events of a half century ago." —Kirkus "An absorbing and surprising account that reveals our nation at its best and worst. It is also a balanced and scrupulously fair story." —Booklist "What we hear in this marvelous, insightful and courageous volume is the voice of a native southern liberal judging her own community honestly and harshly." —Stanley N. Katz, *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* "Jacoway enlivens her text with a host of moving anecdotes and colorful characters." —Alex Lichtenstein, *Chicago Tribune* "This is a mesmerizing and brave book, a story with complicated layers and meaning for all Americans, a heroic saga of progress and its consequences." —Ken Burns, director of *Jazz* and *The War*