

Publicity Etc.

Small Moments: A Child's Memories of the Civil Rights Movement

"Mostly though I's hoping you won't never forget to learn whatever lesson you can be learning from what's going on around you. That's all I'm trying to say. You got to learn, and once you learn you'll know how to stop a thing so it don't keep happening."

At the dawn of the Civil Rights movement, six-year-old Mary Mills Barrow and her family moved from the mountains of Tennessee to a suburban New Jersey. Forced to grow up in a place so unlike her old home, Mary clung tightly to the hand and heart of their African-American housemaid, Amelia.

At once a stern caretaker and a tender mother-figure, Amelia's constant presence in Mary's life gradually exposed her to the rippling tide of unrest and inequality spreading through the nation, as well as the violent and heartbreaking ramifications of the Tuskegee experiment. It was from Amelia that Mary learned of the despair caused by the murders of Medgar Evers and Emmett Till, of the hope provided by "sitting down," and the power of an "X".

Small Moments: A Child's Memories of the Civil Rights Movement (Wise Ink), is a gripping and heartfelt story of how one uneducated and underprivileged woman taught a young girl to see the world not in terms of color, but in terms of kindness, equality, and love.

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About the Author: Mary Mills Barrow has been a professional writer her entire career, first as a New York-based editor and then as an editor/communications consultant for McKinsey & Co., Inc. an international management consulting firm in Australia. Born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Mary moved with her family to New Jersey in 1959. She's a graduate of Princeton Day School and George Washington University. Mary lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

Suggested Topics of Discussion

1. How was Amelia and her role in your household perceived differently in New Jersey than it had been when your family lived in Tennessee?
2. In the book, your father comes across as what we would now call a racist. Did his attitudes change as he got older and the world around him changed?
3. Your mother had a very complex relationship with Amelia. Do you think there was ever a genuine friendship between them?
4. How did the Tuskegee experiment, which studied the progression of untreated syphilis in rural African American men, impact both Amelia and your family?
5. Did you ever meet any of Amelia's family?

To schedule an interview contact:

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For more information on Mary and *Small Moments*:

<http://www.marymillsbarrowbooks.com>