Coming of Age in Mississippi by Anne Moody

A Book That Takes You To The Life Of A Freedom Fighter.

Born to a poor couple who were tenant farmers on a plantation in Mississippi, Anne Moody lived through some of the most dangerous days of the pre-civil rights era in the South. The week before she began high school came the news of Emmet Till’s lynching. Before then, she had known the fear of hunger, hell, and the Devil. But now there was…the fear of being killed just because I was black. In that moment was born the passion for freedom and justice that would change her life.

An all-A student whose dream of going to college is realized when she wins a basketball scholarship, she finally dares to join the NAACP in her junior year. Through the NAACP and later through CORE and SNCC she has first-hand experience of the demonstrations and sit-ins that were the mainstay of the civil rights movement, and the arrests and jailings, the shotguns, fire hoses, police dogs, billy clubs and deadly force that were used to destroy it.

A deeply personal story but also a portrait of a turning point in our nation’s destiny, this autobiography lets us see history in the making, through the eyes of one of the footsoldiers in the civil rights movement.

My Personal Review:
In the well-written autobiography, Coming Of Age In Mississippi, Anne Moody describes what it is like to grow up black in Mississippi. Her experiences growing up formulated her outlook on life. Born in 1940 Anne grew up during the thick of the Civil Rights movement. She had to deal with prejudice from blacks and whites alike. Throughout the book Anne struggles with her feelings on what she believes in. Along with that, she must deal with the hardships of being poor and the outcome of her actions.
As a result of her struggles a hero is born. Anne uses her heroism and strong will to make things happen. The book is well written and conveys the life experiences and feelings of a black girl as seen through the authors own reflections.

The book Coming Of Age In Mississippi is separated into 4 different sections that each tell about a different time in Annes life. The first section of the book deals with Annes childhood. When Anne was 4 her father left her mother and younger sister. After her father left her mother had another baby, by a solider named Raymond, whom she eventually married. When Anne was 9 years old she got her first job sweeping an old white ladys porch and sidewalks. She got paid 75 cents and 2 gallons of milk a week. Anne stopped working for the lady when the lady had her cleaning the whole house (p.44). Throughout her childhood Anne learned just what she must do to survive in Mississippi. Her experiences as a child set the guidelines for the rest of her life. It wasnt until Anne started high school that she started hating the prejudice Negroes received. I was 15 years old when I began to hate people... I hated all the whites who were responsible for the countless murders... But I also hated Negroes. I hated them for not standing up and doing something about the murders. (p. 129) It was because of this feeling that Anne started to question the way she was treated. She started pushing away from her comfort zone and searching for what she believed was right. During her senior year of high school Anne left her mothers house for good and went to live with her father. With this action she started to sever the ties that bound her to her family and the old way of life. In college Anne put her newfound independence to use. She started a boycott against the cafeteria food because it was unsanitary. We dont eat until he, (President Buck), gets rid of Miss Harris, (the cook), and that leak is fixed. (p. 235) This was said by Anne in an attempt to rile up her fellow students. Throughout college Anne started doing more things to help Negroes win equal rights. For example she worked on and off with organizations such as the SNCC and the NAACP that promoted equal rights for blacks. Towards the end of her college education Anne jumped feet first into the movement. While working in the movement Anne experienced horrors she had only heard about back home. She dealt with prejudice and threats in all shapes and forms from all different people. One of the first encounters of prejudice she had while working in the movement happened during her first sit-in. The white students, (in the store), started chanting all kinds of anti-Negro slogans... The rest of the seats except the three we were occupying had been roped off to prevent others from sitting down. A couple of the boys took one end of the rope and made it into a hangmans noose. Several attempts were made to put it around our necks. (p. 265) Despite many experiences worse than the sit-in Anne continued to push for what she believed was right. Through her work she gave herself and the other people around her a reason to live. Anne finally figured out that there was no special secret to being happy and rich. It comes from what you do with your life. This realization completed her transformation from girl to heroine.

Throughout the book Anne Moody tells her story in such a way that it captivates the reader. The book is not just an autobiography but a true
story of a young heroine. The qualities of a heroine are not as noticeable in
the beginning of the book. As Annes life progresses the reader sees those
qualities start to grow and flourish. Through the development of Annes
faults and virtues the reader is drawn into the fight against racial
discrimination. Throughout the book you are fighting for what Anne
believes in. You are so drawn into her actions that you flinch when
someone is treated unfairly and cheer when an action is just. Moreover the
book grabs your interest and holds onto it until the very last sentence.
During Annes life she dealt with hardships unimaginable to most people.
Due to her experiences she gained the qualities of a heroine. Using her
memories Anne Moody lets the reader jump into the shoes of a young
black girl growing up in Mississippi. While reading this book the reader
gets to feel what Anne felt growing up. The way the book is written makes
the reader want to go out and help people who are in the same
predicament as Anne.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
Coming of Age in Mississippi by Anne Moody - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!