

# The Blood of Emmett Till

Review by Cooper

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In the true crime novel “The Blood of Emmett Till” by Timothy B. Tyson, a fourteen-year-old African-American boy named Emmett Till goes on a trip to visit family in Mississippi during the year 1955. Although racial tensions were still high during this time period, growing up north in Chicago allowed Till to enjoy a more progressive and tolerant lifestyle compared to the South. However, he still experienced many injustices and acts of discrimination in Chicago due to the color of his skin. He was always treated differently, but he always kept a positive attitude and made the most of his childhood. Life in Mississippi for African Americans, however, was far different than life in Chicago for African Americans. The South had a much more traditional way of life and treated blacks much more harshly than in the North. When Emmett visited the South, he used poor judgment and offended a white woman in a shop. This would launch a set of events in which the woman’s husband would kidnap Emmett Till from his relatives’ house and kill him. Tyson discusses the lives of blacks in both the North and South throughout the book, as well as political systems and social relations in each region, as a means to provide context for this terrible murder.

This book is written as an investigative piece, conducting an interview throughout the book with Carolyn Bryant, the woman who Emmett Till allegedly offended. This book is also written as a thriller. The reader eagerly reads each page wanting to find the truth of the incident. Tyson does a great job of keeping an unbiased opinion going into the investigation in order to find the truth. He portrays those involved in the murder and those affected by it simply as who they are, not in ways to sway readers to choose one narrative over another. This format allows for the truth to be easily digested by the reader as this investigative thriller exposes the events for what they really were. Despite not fabricating lies about the events in order to make them more interesting, Tyson is excellent at captivating The Reader through the strategic placement of certain facts in order to make the narrative more appealing. Tyson keeps the reader wanting to continue flipping the pages in order to discover the truth about the murder.

I would highly recommend this book because it is an important event in US history that highlights a period of discrimination and social relations in the United States During civil rights movements. This book is perfect for readers who enjoy historical nonfiction. Tyson

Dives deep into the history of this time period and offers an explanation for the events that took place. This book is also great for those who enjoy thrillers and mystery because the book is excellent at keeping the reader in a state of suspense while they continue to read in order to discover the truth. Overall, this is a great book, and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. It was very interesting, and I learned a lot about the political, economic, and social aspects of both the North and South in the mid-20th century.