



# Simeon's Story: An Eyewitness Account of the Kidnapping of Emmett Till

*Simeon Wright , Herb Boyd*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# Simeon's Story: An Eyewitness Account of the Kidnapping of Emmett Till

*Simeon Wright , Herb Boyd*

**Simeon's Story: An Eyewitness Account of the Kidnapping of Emmett Till** Simeon Wright , Herb Boyd  
No modern tragedy has had a greater impact on race relations in America than the kidnapping and murder of Emmett Till. A 14-year-old black boy from Chicago visiting relatives in Mississippi in 1955, Till was taken from his uncle's home by two white men; several days later, his body was found in the Tallahatchie River. This grotesque crime became the catalyst for the civil rights movement.

At age 12, author Simeon Wright saw and heard his cousin Emmett whistle at a white woman at a grocery store; he was sleeping in the same bed with him when Emmett was taken; and he was at the sensational trial. This is his gripping coming-of-age memoir.

## Simeon's Story: An Eyewitness Account of the Kidnapping of Emmett Till Details

Date : Published January 1st 2010 by Chicago Review Press

ISBN : 9781556527838

Author : Simeon Wright , Herb Boyd

Format : Hardcover 160 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Crime, True Crime, History, Autobiography, Memoir

 [Download Simeon's Story: An Eyewitness Account of the Kidna ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Simeon's Story: An Eyewitness Account of the Kid ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Simeon's Story: An Eyewitness Account of the Kidnapping of Emmett Till Simeon Wright , Herb Boyd**

---

## From Reader Review Simeon's Story: An Eyewitness Account of the Kidnapping of Emmett Till for online ebook

### Jana says

Powerful and very interesting. Bought for my school library. Great non-fiction for middle grade readers!

---

### Jessie says

This book was on my battle of the books list. It was the last book left so i picked it. This is one of the few nonfiction book that I actually liked. it had soo much detail and it alwys kept you on your toes. I read th ewhole book cover to cover, for real, in 2 hours because I couldn't put it down. I have learned alot and my teacher and I actually have something to talk about. I feel though that it was a little horrifing when i Looked up more and was glad they didn't have any picture of how they found emmit's body. Great book and people should read it even though it is about murders. You shouldn't judge books like that.

---

### Lena says

I have read so many books about Emmett Till and this is by far the best one.

Why - The simple, straightforward accounting of the events as experienced by Simeon Wright. The only motive was to tell in his words what honestly happened. There are no added filler words to extend the book. I felt the sadness and hurt of Mr. Wright and I applaud him for having the courage and sincerity to document his story.

Please read, this is a short but powerful book.

Thank you

---

### Luisa says

Born in 1941, Emmett Till would be 20 years older than me if he'd been allowed to live. But the Black teen had offended the sensibilities of small town Mississippi in 1955 by whistling at a White woman. It didn't matter that he was only 14. It didn't matter that he was from Chicago and didn't understand how different the rules in the South were. He was taken from his bedroom in the middle of the night. His tortured body was found later with a face so badly mutilated that the ring of his deceased father which he always wore helped to identify him. Adding insult to injury, the men who did it, the men who'd abducted and murdered a fourteen year old boy, were found not guilty by an all-white jury. This version of the story is told by an eyewitness, Emmett's cousin Simeon, who was in the room that horrible night. Simeon's descriptions of the crushing racism prior to and after the incident provide insight to a time and place that would allow and even condone this atrocity, and he corrects falsehoods about it that have circulated for decades. Excellent nonfiction read, especially if you have some familiarity with the Civil Rights Movement.

---

## Alicia says

I liked the straight forward approach Wright took in declaring everything he knew before, during, and after the death of Emmett "Bobo" Till, since Wright was there when Till whistled at the white woman and there in the house when he was taken by two men from their house on a visit from Chicago to Mississippi. It truly is Simeon's story.

There aren't gratuitous details nor is there a pity party, just the facts. It's about the Jim Crow south, it's about growing up black, it was about "playing by the rules" and the fact that their family suffered endlessly during and after the death because even with the turmoil of the Civil Rights movement, there was still much fear, especially since neither was convicted of anything.

A great connection with Common Core about perspective/voice.

---

## Liv says

Short and simply told eyewitness account of the kidnapping and murder of Emmett Till, a 14 year old boy from Chicago. Emmett was Simeon's cousin, and he was visiting Simeon in Mississippi when he was taken out of Simeon's own bed in the middle of the night, brutally beaten, and dumped in a river, all for whistling at a white woman. Simeon was witness to the "incident" at the store with Mrs. Bryant, was there the night Emmett was taken, and was in the witness room waiting to be called to testify at court. Simeon does a great job explaining how this event not only helped to shape the larger civil rights movement, but also impacted the rest of his life. The all-white jury's decision to declare his murderers not guilty, even after eye witness testimony from multiple sources and the defendants own admission that they had taken Emmett (although they didn't admit to the murder), forever damaged Simeon and his family's sense of justice. Mr. Wright is not an author by trade and the writing is nothing fancy, but the story is an important one and the book well worth it for anyone who doesn't know much about this case or wants to learn more about an event that many Civil Rights leaders cited as an inspiration to fight back against violence and injustice.

---

## Kristy says

*Simeon's Story* may be one of the most difficult books I've ever read. Simeon Wright was the cousin of Emmett Till, the 14-year-old boy murdered by white supremacists. Mr. Wright describes the actual event, and how its aftermath haunted both him and his family in the following years.

Wright's narrative is very simple and straightforward, but I left this book feeling like my heart and my lungs were crushed. I can't imagine carrying such rage and grief inside for a whole life, just as much as it kills me inside to think that 14-year-old boys are sentenced to death for the stupidest reasons. The chapter that actually describes the moment that Emmett Till was kidnapped from the Wright home should be read in every American classroom - and I did indeed share it in mine.

Teachers and Librarians, make this memoir a critical first-person text in your dialogues on the long-term, shattering effects of racism.

---

## Michael says

"If you want an accurate account of any story, go to the primary source. They know what really happened." (p.137) This quote by Simeon Wright sums up the story of this novel. *Simeon's Story* written by Simeon Wright and Herb Boyd details Simeon Wright's cousin Emmett "Bobo" Till's kidnap and murder for whistling at a white woman in a grocery store in Mississippi in 1955. Simeon's story gives a detailed account about being black and dealing with segregation, Jim Crow Laws and the Ku Klux Klan in the south of the 1950's. This grotesque crime became the catalyst for the Civil Rights movement. Simeon who was an eyewitness to the event clears up some of the myths surrounding the crime and provides updates to the murder and kidnapping investigation. There is nothing fancy about the writing its down to earth and will keep you on the edge of your seat. Its a shame the crime happened. Its and excellent read that's based on a first hand account and personal tribute to the legacy of Emmett Till.

---

## marcus miller says

Written for younger readers *Simeon's Story* is told by Simeon Wright a cousin of Emmett Till. Wright does an excellent job describing what life was like for many African-Americans living in the deep South during the 1950's. This makes it a valuable resource, supplementing what is available in most textbooks. Wright then tells the story of Till's abduction and the trial which followed. His reflections on the lack of justice and the unfairness of the judicial system strike a chord given the recent verdict in the Trayvon Martin case.

---

## Janie says

This book finally tells the story of what happened that fateful night that 14-year-old, Emmett (Bobo) Till was taken from the home of his relatives in Money, Mississippi and was never seen alive again. His body was found floating in the river nearby with a gunshot wound to his head. Though a trial took place charging the white men (who witnesses saw take him from the home) were found innocent.

The book, written by Simeon Wright, Bobo's cousin tells the story how he remembers it. He clears up common misconceptions and talks candidly about the ordeal which still weighs heavily on him today. The facts are interesting and kept my interest, but I found the writing somewhat dull. It could have been so much better. While I'm sure he didn't want to sensationalize the events, they could have been written with better word choice and urgency as the first-hand account of the subject deserves. All in all, an interesting read, which I would recommend even for students.

---

## Mike Kabongo says

My only complaint about this book is that it isn't long enough.

Simeon Wright plainly, and unbiasedly tells his part and memory of a dark, dark period of American history. Life in the Mississippi Delta in 1955 was precarious even if you'd grown up their and knew all the rules, Simeon Wright's cousin from Chicago didn't, and his life ended in the delta floating down the Tallahatchie river wired to a fan for whistling at a white woman. Well told, good use of pictures and no grandstanding.

## Donna says

Simeon Wright, Emmett Till's cousin, recounts his life in Mississippi and Chicago. Simeon was one of the few witnesses to Till's abduction and the events that led up to it. He clears up some of the myths surrounding the crime and also provides an update to the murder and kidnapping investigation which was reopened in recent years, but ended without indictment. Herb Boyd is credited as a co-writer for integrating additional facts into Simeon's story. There's nothing fancy about the writing, but the story itself is compelling and well-told.

---

## U. Teresa says

While this text is categorized as juvenile literature, I think it is an important text for any reader at any level to consume if you want to understand what really happened that unfortunate day and eventual night that took the life of Emmett Till. With clear, sparse text (as it should be given the subject and purpose), Wright, along with Boyd, recounts what Wright saw and experienced when Till was abducted and murdered by JW Milam and Roy Bryant. He also includes an account of how the story progressed in the news and in his own life as a young boy having witnessed his second cousin being abducted and murdered. I think that the text should be considered as the most important primary source that we're going to have on this unforgettable and heinous act that took place in 1955.

---

## Denise says

As I study the Emmett Till story the most telling part of this book for me was that Simeon was there and thus would know what truly happened and didn't happen as far as what led to the kidnapping and death of Emmett. I was shocked that events have been taking place in recent years and I somehow have not heard of them. The Till bill, the bill allowing cold case civil rights files to be looked at and hopefully solved being one of those events. Time for more education on civil rights and the story of Emmett Till. Thankful that Simeon told his story.

---

## Pennyjo says

"Mississippi in the 1950s, when I was coming of age, was just like Mississippi in the 1860s, when the Ku Klux Klan and night riders were part of our daily lives."

For twelve year old Simeon Wright, this was the only way of life he knew. Growing up in the South was hard. But for his cousin, Bobo, who was visiting for the summer from Chicago, this way of life was unacceptable. He wondered why they put up with it. Until the night that two white men broke into their house and kidnapped Bobo for being disrespectful to a white woman. Days later Bobo, otherwise known as Emmett Till, was found floating dead in the area's river. His death changed the course of all of their lives and became a starting point for the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. This story is told from the point of view of an eyewitness to these events and is powerful.

This is a book which should be included on school book lists across the nation. It tells of the senseless death of a person when others thought they were powerful enough to live above the law. This book will grace my classroom book shelf and will probably become part of my literary curriculum.

---