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Mississippi Comforts: True Stories of Redemption and Hope

Ray Flowers

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"Mark Twain is back!”“ Ray Flowers, a highly gifted writer who can plum tremendous insights from everyday events. Flowers follows in the rich tradition of Southern writers with Mississippi Comforts, bringing to life characters that make us belly-laugh one moment, cry the next. Stewart Lytle, Novelist/journalist. “This book is a gentle reminder of why we embrace and read over and over again with zest our favorite Southern stories such as To Kill A Mockingbird, Steel Magnolias, The Help, or Cold Sassy Tree. Ray Flowers has a unique talent for story-telling in his honest, genuine and always surprising delivery!” Ruth Baron, VP, The Point Group-Media Specialist “Ray Flowers writes with a rarely seen, barely contained delight for all things Southern. His quick—sometimes biting—wit and vivid descriptions make for an incredibly entertaining read!” Brianna Barrier Engeler, Author/Editor Mississippi Comforts: True Stories of Redemption and Hope is a poignant reminder that family and friends are constant sources of joy, heartache, aggravation, and companionship. These compelling vignettes describe the author’s life, the son of an honored physician in small-town Mississippi and keenly traces his relationship with his father from childhood through adolescence and the observance of an emerging addiction. These real-life tales are humorous, occasionally highly humorous, occasionally heartbreaking, deeply woven with life-affirming truths. Life in the Deep South during the tumultuous years of 1950-75 gives rich fodder. Deeply intimate and brutally honest, each story is infused with the twin themes of redemption and hope. They create a beautifully written tale of hilarious situations, painful family secrets, and generous second chances. Do you like to read about childhood, teenager stories which contain all emotions? And those emotions change the person? Then you will love this book. The author wrote this book at "age appropriate", meaning, Chapter 1, Kindergarter, is written as if a 5 year old were writing. This author has a unique gift to insert age appropriate messages in the story. This book captures the delicacies of the South, written in a very unique style. There are several themes, delicately woven together to complete each story of redeeming love and hope, and plenty of second chances. The author has been compared to writings similar to that of Mark Twain. There are several incidents of similar situations as Huck and Tom, but from a 1960s vantage point. The humor will have you bent over laughing with tears running down your face. Moments later you will be crying as a story draws you inward you you experience the event with the author. The author has a "take me for a ride" approach to this book. It is very pro-active and descriptive of minor things, such as the joy associated with spitting on ants. Nothing beats real-life story telling. In his home church, he dressed up as Mark Twain and then mesmerized the audience with a rich Southern tale, told in a comical environment. Some of the stories deal with not-fun real life experiences, especially during the temoults of The Civil Rights era, and the deep emotions of that time. You will actually feel those deep emotions as the author tells of the acts of the Ku Klux Klan, while trying to assure absolute love. A confusing time. One which required involvement. The author takes you on a personal journey in the impactful time of our nation's history. The trials of that time come to life. Those trials even go back to when the Indians inhabited that area of Eastern Mississippi and Western Alabama. Have you ever heard a person telling a story of a Civil War experience? This author has. This book is an easy read...sometimes. This book will challenge every emotion in your spirit...sometimes. This book willl have you laughing as if you were a child...sometimes. This book will grip you with a groaning, continual non-spoken pain...for a while. It's a very good read.

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Katie Harper:

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