Kristen Green
Author of SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY: A Family, a Virginia Town, a Civil Rights Battle (Harper, June 9, 2015)

SHORT BIO

Kristen Green has worked as a reporter for the Boston Globe, the San Diego Union-Tribune, and the Richmond Times-Dispatch. She holds a master’s in public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School. This is her first book. She lives in Richmond, Virginia.

LONGER BIO

Kristen Green has worked for two decades as a journalist at newspapers including The San Diego Union-Tribune and the Boston Globe. In 2012, she was recognized by Media General for excellent local news writing at the Richmond Times-Dispatch. She has been awarded the Best of Gannett Outstanding Achievement in Writing, and her work has been recognized by the San Diego Society of Professional Journalists and the National Headliner Awards. Kristen also received a fellowship from the Scripps Howard Institute on the Environment at University of Colorado at Boulder. In 2009, Kristen was awarded a Master in Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School.

Kristen grew up in Prince Edward County, Va., the only community in the nation to close its schools for five years rather than desegregate. She and her three younger brothers attended an all-white academy, which was founded in 1959 by their grandparents and other white leaders when the public school doors were locked. Both of their parents attended the school, as well. It did not admit black students until 1986, when Kristen was in the eighth grade.

Kristen began thinking about writing SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY soon after she met her future husband, Jason. Marrying a multiracial man gave the hidden history of her hometown more meaning. Two years after their 2004 wedding, she conducted an interview with the last living founder of the private academy. The founder died six weeks later but the way he talked about mixed race children stayed with Kristen, even as she and Jason started their own family.

In the eight years since Kristen conducted that first interview, she and Jason had two daughters. While balancing motherhood, graduate school and her work as a reporter, she continued chipping away at the book, conducting research and doing interviews. She moved with her family to Virginia in 2010, and in 2013 she spent two months living in Farmville to complete her research.

Kristen lives in Richmond, Va. with her husband, Jason Hamilton, and their two young daughters, Amaya, 7, and Selma, 5.