

**SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY:**

**A Family, A Town, A Civil Rights Battle**

**By Kristen Green**

*New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice

*New York Times* bestseller in Race and Civil Rights

*New York Times* bestseller in Education

Southern Indie Bestseller

Longlisted for the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction

*Washington Post* Notable Nonfiction 2015

*Booklist* Editors' Choice 2015

“A gripping narrative... her writing is powerful and persuasive.”

—*New York Times Book Review*

“What makes Ms. Green’s book essential reading is that Prince Edward illuminates two instructive story lines that can become lost today amid the stirring commemorations of famous civil rights battles and the growing fury over the killing of unarmed African-Americans.... This is not just a work of history but also a story of how resistance to integration still shapes American life.”

—*The New York Times*

“Green’s excellent narration of the town’s history shines through.”

—*Dallas Morning News*

"Journalist Kristen Green grew up in Prince Edward County and attended the all-white private academy, which her grandfather helped found (and which finally acceded to federal government pressure and began accepting students of color in 1986). Now she has produced a well-researched and compassionate account of what happened and its impact on blacks and whites. *Something Must Be Done About Prince Edward County* is an especially intimate portrait because Green interweaves public events with her family’s role, which was driven by the racism and gaping moral blind spots of her beloved grandparents.... Her thoughtful book is a gift to a new generation of readers, who need to know this story.”

—*The Washington Post*

“Green is a journalist by trade, and she builds *Something Must Be Done About Prince Edward County* on reams of painstaking research, interviews, and historical documents.... What matters is the scant but vivid voice she gives to the black citizens Prince Edward County silenced for decades, and the light the book shines on how much—and how little—has changed.”

—*Entertainment Weekly*

"The decision to write the book took guts, because Green knew she would be publicly castigating not only her grandparents, but other relatives and friends, as well.... Her involvement in the

shameful history of Prince Edward County provides the book with an emotional edge not easily forgotten."

—*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

"A mélange of history and memoir, a delineation of Virginia's particular veneer of bijou politesse spread oh-so-thinly over an easily provoked racist vitriol, and a quest to understand why her generous and loving grandparents, in 1960, were still living in 1860. . . . The circumstances are quite a story, and Green administers it with both precision and passion. Drawn from the testimony of black residents she interviewed and her many hours combing library sources, she casts a sharp picture of the geographical, social, and economic consequences of segregation." —*Christian Science Monitor*

"Overcome with feelings of shame and guilt, she decided to kick over the Farmville rock and confront its rattling genteel past. . . . None of what took place in the bad old days can reasonably be considered the author's fault, but she adamantly rejects any diffusion of historical responsibility, believing that she "can't be separated from any of it." —*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

"A potent introduction to a nearly forgotten part of the civil rights movement and a personalized reminder of what it was truly about."

—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

"Absorbing. . . . A merger of history both lived and studied, Green's book looks beyond the publicized exploits of community leaders to reveal the everyday people who took great risks and often suffered significant loss during the struggle against change in one 'quaint, damaged community.'"

— *Publishers Weekly*

"Green has rendered a deeply moving account of historical injustice and a personal search for redemption for her family's role in it." — *Booklist*

"This intimate and candid account. . . . personalizes politics, jangles nerves and opens minds"

— *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*

"Green's work. . . joins the likes of Diane McWhorter's *Carry Me Home* in further developing the dimensions of the South's desegregation struggle,"

— *Library Journal*

"Green feels compelled to stare down her past, and she does so with uncommon humanity."

— *New York 1 News*

"Kristen was 'born to write this book.'" — *Bookpage*

"This book is both intimate and ambitious: Green gives the reader a far-reaching account of the political and social history of segregation and desegregation in Virginia at the same time that she tells the stories of scores of individuals, herself included, to reveal the very real human costs of this history. Moving and clear-eyed, damning and hopeful: this is an essential read."

— *Jesmyn Ward, author of *Men We Reaped**