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REVIEW: The Schoolhouse Door: Segregation's Last Stand at the University of Alabama

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Jamestown). Each entry is signed by its author and followed by source notes. Many readers will miss the distinction between the two sections; there are no headings to mark the division. The volume is well-indexed, but there are no cross-references to the other volumes, a lack that limits the usefulness of an otherwise excellent resource. The encyclopedia is being published in paperback as well as hardcover, which will make the 24-volume set more affordable. Recommended for all academic libraries and most public libraries. ►►

— Reviewed by **Vanessa Cowie**
Forsyth County Public Library

Return to Good and Evil: Flannery O'Connor's Response to Nihilism by *Henry T. Edmondson III*; contributor *Marion Montgomery* (Lexington Books, 1st Paperback Edition 2005; ISBN 0739111051, \$27.95).

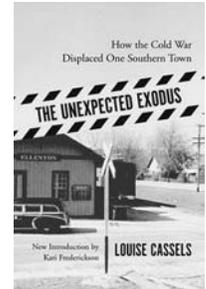


Professor Henry T. Edmondson III has done a great service for readers of Flannery O'Connor in his book *Return to Good and Evil: Flannery O'Connor's Response to Nihilism*. He has gone where so many O'Connor scholars would love to go: deep into Georgia College and State University's special collection of her personal library and published and unpublished manuscripts, and has emerged with a wealth of knowledge about the philosophical and theological foundations of her work. He shares this knowledge in a series of clear, thought-provoking, enlightening discussions of her short stories and novels that provide readers with a greater sense of O'Connor's worldview and purpose than can be gained from reading her fictional work in isolation. Edmondson centers his discussions on O'Connor's implicit desire to refute the troubling influence of nihilism in modern culture; thus, the discussions of O'Connor's art often address the greater issue of the moral decline of a society that seeks to antiquate notions of good and evil. O'Connor's goal was to create "large and startling pictures" to shock her willfully sightless audience into sensing the necessity for redemption and the presence of grace at work in the world. O'Connor's pictures are held up to the light by Edmondson, who points out themes and nuances rooted in her Catholicism and makes reference to the influence of others such as St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Augustine, Frederick Copleston, St. John of the Cross, St. Teresa of Avila, Jacques Maritain and Pascal. Edmondson's ideas on O'Connor's fiction and philosophy are firmly based on her own explications of her stories in letters and lectures and in the works of the theologians she most admired. Flannery O'Connor lived most of her life in Milledgeville, Georgia, and is arguably the most

influential writer to come from this region of the country. This book of essays on her work would be a valuable part of the collection of any public or academic library in Georgia. ►►

— Reviewed by **Leslie R. G. Bullington**
Augusta, Georgia

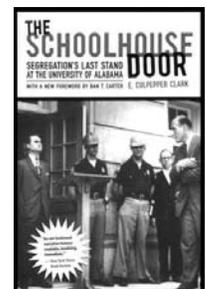
The Unexpected Exodus: How the Cold War Displaced One Southern Town by *Louise Cassels* (University of South Carolina Press, 2007; ISBN 978-1-57003-709-2, ISBN 1-57003-709-4, \$19.95).



Historian Susan A. Crane wrote an article titled "Writing the Individual Back into Collective Memory" that appeared in the December 1997 *American Historical Review*. Louise Cassels' book *The Unexpected Exodus* writes into history the collective memory of all the former residents of Ellenton, S.C., as they were forced to relocate to make way for the construction of the Savannah River Plant. The Savannah River Plant was constructed at the beginning of the Cold War to produce materials for weapons or fuel for power purposes. Louise Cassels was a schoolteacher and a member of the most prominent family in Ellenton. She provides readers with a vivid account of the hopes, fears and concerns of the citizens of Ellenton before and after the announcement of their need to relocate to make way for the plant. The emotions of the citizens of this small South Carolina community ran from anger to feelings of patriotism. This book not only provides insight into how the construction of the plant affected this one community but also into how the military industrial complex changed the economy of the South. Louise Cassels demonstrates that the individual really does matter in history. First published in 1971, the book will be a welcome addition to the collections of public and academic libraries. ►►

— Reviewed by **Diane Fulkerson**
University of West Georgia

The Schoolhouse Door: Segregation's Last Stand at the University of Alabama by *E. Culpepper Clark* (University of Alabama Fire Ant Books, 2007, ISBN 9780817354336, \$24.95).



Some of us remember former Alabama Governor George Wallace's infamous schoolhouse door stand at the University of Alabama as he attempted to bar federal authorities from enforcing segregation in

Alabama schools. *The Schoolhouse Door* is the story of the events at the University of Alabama that led up to this incident and the way that segregation issues were eventually resolved at the University of Alabama. One of the first African-American students admitted to the University of Alabama was a library science student named Autherine Lucy. Ms. Lucy was not allowed to eat in the college dining hall or to live in campus housing. Unfortunately, Ms. Lucy was expelled from the university only a few days after she began the program because of racial unrest, even though she did not instigate the unrest. In order to write this powerful narrative history, Dr. Clark interviewed former University of Alabama students, faculty and administrators from the 1956-65 era. He tells their stories and interweaves documentation from campus policies, faculty meeting minutes and other documents from the '50's and '60's. The book explores the opposite views of two college presidents: Dr. Oliver Carmichael held the view that the university is powerless to move beyond political sentiment; Dr. Frank Rose, his successor, believed that the university could take an active role in promoting desegregation efforts. Dr. Clark uses a fair and balanced approach in telling this story. *The Schoolhouse Door* is a valuable narrative account of the desegregation movement in the South and its implications for desegregation nationally. This book is appropriate for high school, academic and public libraries. ►►

— Reviewed by **Ravonne Green**
Valdosta State University

JUVENILE

ABC Safari by Karen Lee (Sylvan Dell Publishing, 2007; ISBN: 978-0-9777423-0-1, \$15.97).

Author/illustrator Karen Lee has created a beautiful journey through the alphabet. Clearly researched, this title teaches while it captivates young readers. More than just an alphabet book, *ABC Safari* uses beautifully descriptive language to highlight the many details of the animal kingdom. "His face is fiercely sprouting horns. Just 'keep away' his grimace warns. But truly he's a gentle guy. The Rhino's really rather shy." Children will delight in the outstanding illustrations, encompassing animals of many different biomes. This fact-based book is suitable for reading aloud to a group. The Creative Minds section at the end is reproducible for a memory



game. The only downfall of the book is that the animal profiles do not include locations. This title would be an excellent addition to any collection. ►►

— Reviewed by **Lindy Moore**
West Georgia Regional Lithia Springs Branch

Bucking the Sarge by Christopher Paul Curtis (Wendy Lamb Books, 2004; ISBN 0-385-32307-7, \$15.95).

"Normally a ninth grader isn't what you think of when you mention the word 'crusader,' but that's precisely what Flint, Michigan's Whittier Middle School student Luther T. Farrell has turned out to be." Yes, Luther T. Farrell at the age of 15 is a crusader in a variety of ways. He has a college fund with \$92,000 and growing, credit cards to use and a certified driver's license. Mom, "the Sarge," pulls strings in all directions as she milks the system to build an empire using housing found in the slums for group homes. She claims all of this is being done for her one and only son, Luther. Despite Luther's age, the Sarge has placed him in charge of "The Happy Neighbor Group Home for Men," where the complete care of the residents becomes his job. Luther has higher ambitions and plans than running a slum housing empire for the Sarge. He places his focus on working hard in school, winning his third science fair project in a row and moving on to Harvard and graduating as a philosopher. Yet, he is completely dominated by his terrifying mother. Another dominating female in his life is the love of his life, Shayla, though she is his science fair project rival. When his science fair project on the dangers of lead wins, it attracts attention from the media. This attention infuriates the Sarge, and Luther realizes that the Sarge has no college money for him. With the help of his best friend Sparky, a pit bull named Poofy and the world's scariest rat, Luther sets out to break away from Sarge. The plan is put into motion. Hurray for Luther. This is a strong, motivated character. All readers will be cheering for Luther and his gang with each paragraph they read. Highly recommended for middle school students. ►►

— Reviewed by **Cheryl A. Carter**
Jasper Middle School

