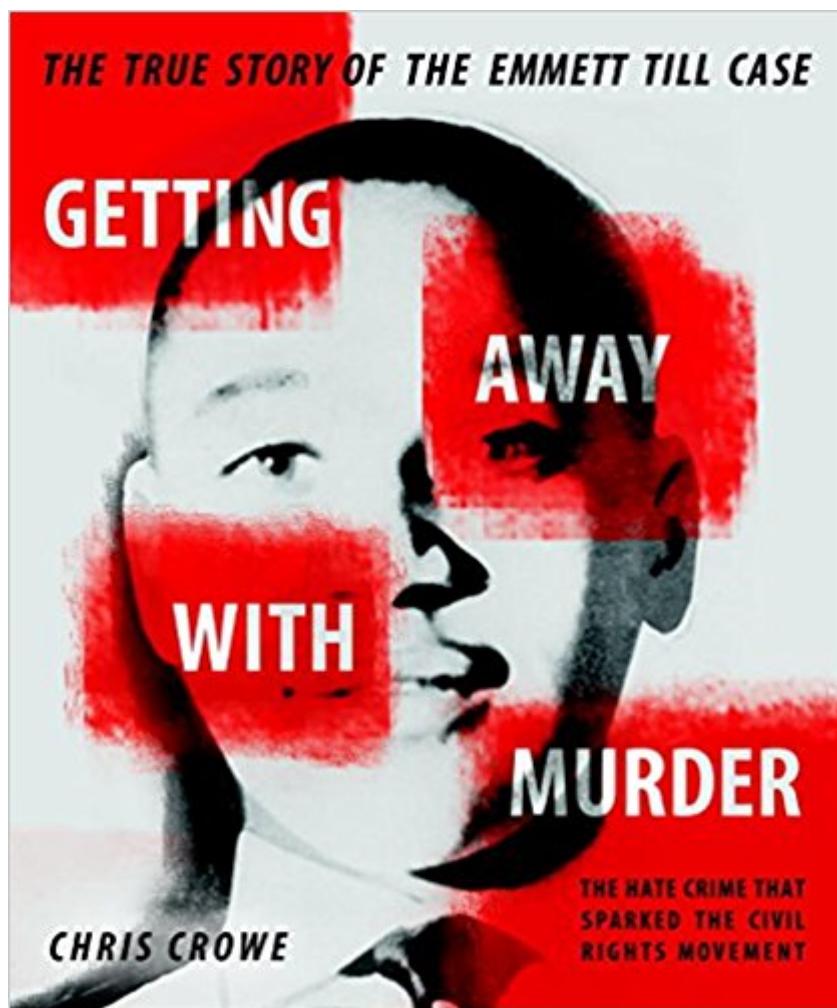


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# Getting Away With Murder: The True Story Of The Emmett Till Case



## **Synopsis**

Revised and updated with new information, this Jane Adams award winner is an in-depth examination of the Emmett Till murder case, a catalyst of the Civil Rights Movement. The kidnapping and violent murder of fourteen-year-old Emmett Till in 1955 was and is a uniquely American tragedy. Till, a black teenager from Chicago, was visiting family in a small town in Mississippi, when he allegedly whistled at a white woman. Three days later, his brutally beaten body was found floating in the Tallahatchie River. In clear, vivid detail Chris Crowe investigates the before-and-aftermath of Till's murder, as well as the dramatic trial and speedy acquittal of his white murderers, situating both in the context of the nascent Civil Rights Movement. Newly reissued with a new chapter of additional material--including recently uncovered details about Till's accuser's testimony--this book grants eye-opening insight to the legacy of Emmett Till.

## **Book Information**

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 7 Up-"The Emmett Till case was not the sole cause of the civil rights movement, but it was the final indignity that caused the flood of outrage to overflow the dam of racial injustice."

Mainstream history has all but forgotten about this 14-year-old African American from Chicago who was murdered by two white men in Mississippi for making "ugly remarks" to one of their wives. The men were acquitted, and several months later, they were interviewed by Look magazine and

publicly confessed to the crime. The event galvanized black Americans, and even many of the whites who had supported the defendants were appalled at their national confession. Four months after Till was killed, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus, and the wheels of the civil rights movement were set in motion. Crowe's research is extensive and his writing is well suited to his audience. The black-and-white photographs add tension and realism to the story. The picture of the boy in his casket originally published in *The Chicago Defender* is a graphic, powerful testament to the brutality of the crime. This book is a mandatory addition to all libraries because of the impact and importance this crime had on our history. Lynn Evarts, Sauk Prairie High School, Prairie du Sac, WI  
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Gr. 7-12. Most American history books don't include Emmett Till, the black 14-year-old from Chicago who was brutally murdered while visiting relatives in the Mississippi Delta in 1954. But the gruesome, racially motivated crime and the court's failure to convict the white murderers was a powerful national catalyst for the civil rights movement. Crowe, the author of *Mississippi Trial* (2002), a YA novel about Till's story, begins this nonfiction account with the events that led to the murder: on a dare, Till allegedly flirted with a local white woman; several days later he was kidnapped by the woman's husband and other men. In accessible, succinct, and sometimes colloquial language, Crowe details what happened on the horrible night, the court proceedings, and how the nation responded-- the "aftershocks" of the unbelievable ruling. Crowe is particularly successful in placing the murder within its larger historical context, detailing life both in the segregated Jim Crow South and in Emmett's less volatile but still segregated Chicago, and he doesn't shy away from the horrifying details (there's a shocking black-and-white photo of Emmett's disfigured corpse among the illustrations). Crowe's occasional re-creations of events are vivid, but like the rest of the text, they would have been better served with more extensive source notes; only a few in-text references and a concluding bibliography are provided. But Crowe's powerful, terrifying account does justice to its subject in bold, direct telling, supported by numerous archival photos and quotes from those who remember, including Emmett's mother, who wrote on her son's gravestone: "A little nobody who shook up the world." A time line and a list of further resources conclude. Gillian Engberg  
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A good, albeit relatively brief, summary of this horrible incident in American history, including the sham trial and following fallout. I consider this a good reference book for one only wanting a quick reference without too much detail, while the book "Emmett Till" contains many more details and

gives the reader a greater in-depth understanding of many factors relating to this incident, thus assuring greater objectivity. Still, I am glad I bought it and now have it.

Back in 1955, a young boy was tortured and murdered for something silly he did...most people today have forgotten about this incident or never knew about it at all. Although this book was written for young people, everyone should read this and reflect on how far we've come...we still can do much better however.

If you were approached on the street, by a stranger and asked, what did Emmett Till due to shape the world today? What would you respond. Most people would not know how to answer it due to they don't know who he is in the first place. But it would be a different story if you were asked what Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. did. Your answer would most likely and should be around help gain equality for all races. But little do people know that what sparked that fire was Emmett Till. In the summer of 1955 two white males, Milam and Bryant demanded to be let into a shack occupied by Emmett Till and his Uncle's family. They then kidnapped Emmett, a fourteen year old African American boy from Chicago, tortured and eventually killed him. Several weeks later a fisherman found his body reported it. During the trial Milam and Bryant plead guilty to kidnapping but not to murder. Then from a jury of 12 white males they were found not guilty and let go of the murder of Emmett Till. "This is not a trial of racism or equality, this is trial or the murder of a boy" this was said by Milam and Bryant's Attorney. This was supposed to be the views of everyone in the courtroom for the trial of Emmett Till. But as you read in the book you'll see that this was nearly the case, Due to Emmett African background they didn't consider his murder as severe as of the murder of a white boy. This book won't be for all readers such as those that read for fun or just to pass the time. It's more targeted for those who like know what caused the civil equality and times views have changed over time due to the author being somewhat of a omniscient narrator, over viewing the whole case but from a bit of a bias stand point leaning to the unjust side. The views shift from the white Americans, to African Americans point of view but stays most on the injustice of the judicial system of the white America in the mid 1900's. But overall it adds knowledge to the reason of how America came to be America.

A tragic and horrendous story, and all true. Happened here in the USA. Very sad commentary on that era in our country's history. It is a famous incident in the civil rights story...very much one to read. The book is in excellent condition, the price was great. I would recommend this seller to others

for sure.

There was so much that I didn't know about this case that I learned from this book. I recommend it to everyone.

Tragic and Compelling Story - a sad reminder for us all.

Had to purchase for school. Interesting story.

I've studied the history of the Till case for many years. This book provided a different perspective of what happened; more graphic, more realistic, and it brought everything to light. Such a simple innocent thing as whistling at a woman changed the world forever.

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