

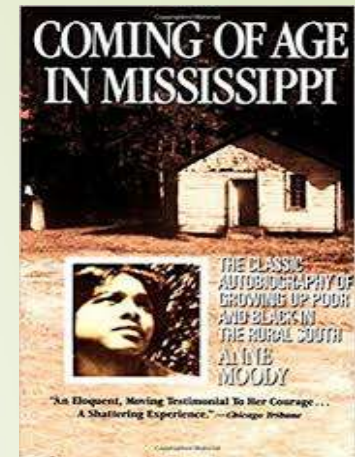
Coming of Age in Mississippi

Part one - Childhood

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Chapter 1

- Anne Moody talks about her childhood, as Essie Mae
- The family live in a two-room shack at Mr. Carter's plantation
- George Lee (8) babysat Essie Mae and Adline
- George Lee put fire in the shack and blame Essie Mae and daddy beats her
- Uncle Ed (12) came to babysit them
- After the fire, Daddy becomes more irritable. (crop and the death of Bush).
- Daddy begins an affair with Florence (Bush's widow)
- During Daddy absence, Mama gives birth to Junior

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- Family moved to Great-Aunt Grace's place
 - Mama got job at the Cooks house (bad pay but dinner leftover)
 - Two weeks after, got job at a Negro Café (\$12 per week)
 - At age 5, Essie Mae went to Mount Pleasant school
 - Essie Mae and sibling spent time with Grandfather Moody (very sick)
 - Essie Mae saw Daddy at Mood's funeral.
 - Mama rejects Daddy's offer of money and gift

Chapter 2

- Uncle Ed was taking care of them while Mama was working.
- Uncle Ed take them to visit his and grandmother Winnie home .
- His two young brother were white (Sam and Walter).
- Asked her mother why her uncles were white, but no answer.
- Mama give birth to another baby (James) Raymond's son.
- Mrs. Pearl took baby home.
- They moved to near Mama work in town, Centreville
- Essie was going to Willis High, only Negro school in Centreville
- Mama quit job at café and work for white lady.

Chapter 3

- Mama quit her job and they move in the same road two miles away
- Mama got a job at Mrs. Johnson (school teacher) \$5/week. Miss Ola lived with them
- Essie likes they are the only black family in the neighborhood.
- First time play with other children, they were white
- Every Saturday they went to movie (white downstairs, black upstairs)
- When all went to the movie, Essie got in trouble because she went to the main entrance with white kids.
- Mama was upset telling cannot do this or that with white children
- She doesn't understand why white have better thing than her. She wanted to know what is different between them and did "doctor game"
- Essie Mae started work at age 9 to help out the family. (\$.75 and gallon of milk)
- After, she got job with Mrs. Claiborne, who treat her as a daughter.

Chapter 4

- They moved to the house that Raymond built, near Miss Pearl.
- Mama and Essie went to buy furniture and Mama Miss Claiborne and Miss Ola ruined you.
- Essie Mae always is in competition with Darlene, Raymond's sister.
- Mama had another baby (Jennie Ann) and Raymond brought her mother to the house
- Miss Pearl didn't talk with Mama. Raymond never stand up for Mama.
- They had a first Christmas, she got \$5 for present and \$7 for working from Mrs. Claiborne
- She stated that the Claibornes and the Johnsons were the nicest white people
- Miss Pearl and her people hated Mama because they had a little lighter skin color.
- Alberta moved to the neighborhood and now Mama have someone to talk to

Chapter 5

- Try to get on Miss Pearl good side, Mama join the Centreville Baptist, in vain.
- Mama didn't go back to the church but sent Essie, Adline and Junior.
- She resigned herself for not e accepted but wanted Raymond's people accept the children.
- Mama back to join Mount Pleasant and forced Essie Mae goes with her



Chapter 6

- Raymond wanted to become “a big-time farmer”
- He bought a mule and rent a piece of land for very cheap
- The reason the land was cheap is because was full of grenades left over from the war
- In the summer, Essie sadly quit working for Mrs. Claiborne to help in the fields
- Raymond was angry about the sun ruining his cotton and his mule getting heatstroke.
- Raymond and Mama continue to pray for good crops. They grow okay but not enough money to buy clothes to school
- Essie reflects "Farming was a fever they couldn't get rid of" since they're both "hooked to the soil."
- Essie doesn't want to be a farmer. She hopes her talent in school will lead to other opportunities "given half a chance," as Miss Claiborne tells her.

Chapter 7

- The new school year started and Essie and siblings wore old clothes and broke-down shoes.
- Mama and kids found work picking pecans for Mr. Wheeler
- They used money for school clothes and shoes
- Essie worked for Miss Minnie on pecan seasons as well did some shores
- Essie started baby-sitting for the white family Jenkins
- Mrs. Jenkins told Essie to call her by the first name, Linda Jean, and treated her as a friend
- Mrs. Burke was shocked to see Linda Jean so close to Essie and tells that her daughter pay to much to Essie
- Linda Jean lower Essie wage.
- Mr. Jenkins's father is a notoriously racist sheriff, but he doesn't cause Essie trouble.
- Mama married Raymond without Miss Pear consent. Mama has another baby, Jerry.

Chapter 8 (should talk about the song?)

- Essie started eight grade with old clothes because the family could not afford.
- She wears her old, tight jeans to school and inadvertently starts a "tight jeans" fad.
- Essie was elected Homecoming Queen by the boys in her class, and the eighth grade's fund-raising got her to be elected queen of the entire school, with Mrs. Willis help.
- She was disappointed because she could not afford a gown.
- Linda Jean offered her a faded pink gown that she hated
- Mama promises Daddy will send Essie a gown, but until day before she didn't received.
- She gets a surprise visit from Daddy. He has brought a new, stylish gown for her.
- She has the fanciest outfit at the Homecoming parade.
- In full makeup Essie realizes she's no longer a little girl.
- The entire town were in parade. She felt that Linda Jean was surprised that a "Negro could look that beautiful".

Chapter 9

- If graduation approaching, Mrs. Willis asked for the birth certificates to school records.
- Essie, Adline and Jr didn't have one because was burned when Jr. set fire in the house.
- Mama requested copies and on Essie's certificate the name "Annie Mae Moody" was printed.
- Essie and Darlene compete for the titles of valedictorian and salutatorian. Darlene had better grade but another girl, Betty beat them.
- Mama convinced Raymond to look for a job in California, but he returned unsuccessfully.
- The Moody family were in poverty and more unhappiness. To make matters worse, Mama had another baby, Ralph.
- Linda Jean's family was moving, so Anne lost her own job.
- Mrs. Burke offers Anne work. She knew that she had to take it, to help her family.
- Anne liked Mrs. Burke family, they were like Linda Jean, and she challenge Mrs. Burke.





Questions

- What did it mean to grow up in the South and come of age at the beginning of the Civil Rights movement?
- What structures of power and race relation define the southern world of which Anne Mood was a part?
- How does she learn that whites and African Americans are different?
- How would you describe relations between blacks and whites in Mississippi