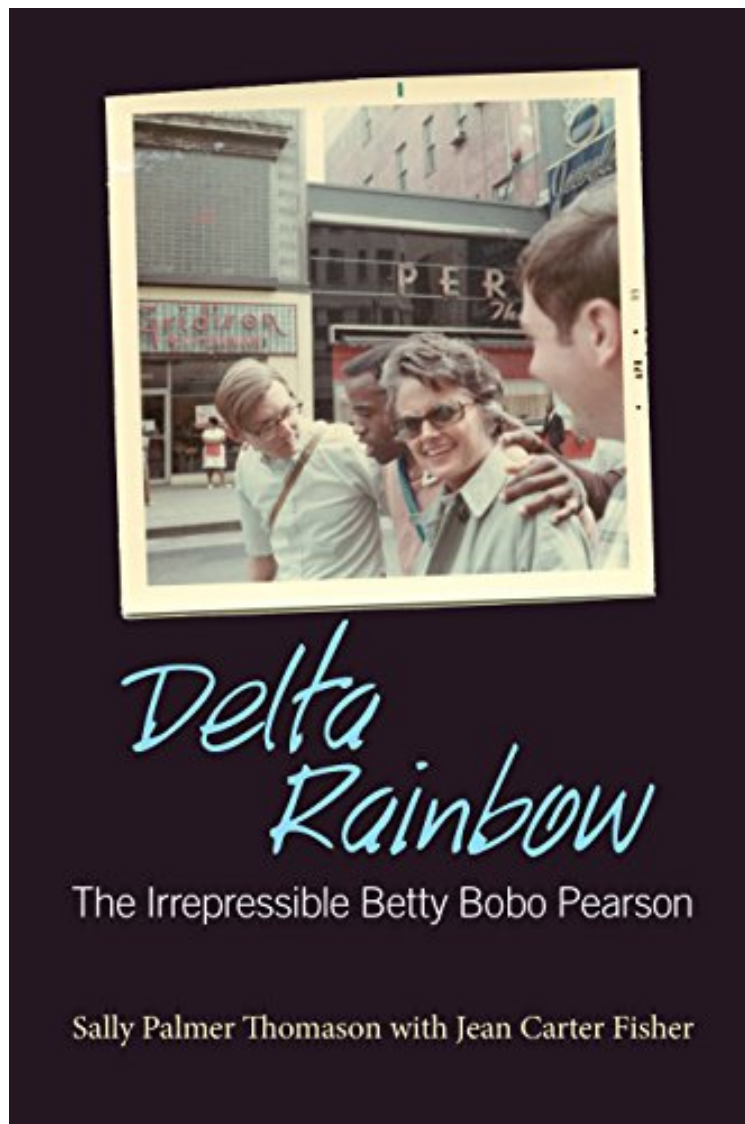


(Read free ebook) Delta Rainbow: The Irrepressible Betty Bobo Pearson (Willie Morris Books in Memoir and Biography)

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Sally Palmer Thomason

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#870062 in Books 2016-06-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.60 x .90 x 5.60l, .0 #File Name: 1496806646144 pages | File size: 33.Mb

Sally Palmer Thomason : Delta Rainbow: The Irrepressible Betty Bobo Pearson (Willie Morris Books in Memoir and Biography) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Delta Rainbow: The Irrepressible Betty Bobo Pearson (Willie Morris Books in Memoir and Biography):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I know BETTY Pearson, the subject of this book ...By RalphI know

BETTY Pearson, the subject of this book. She is an icon in my life coming of age (in my late 20's) in Mississippi. Reading the story of this remarkable person carries me back to those years and is an honoring of her life and gifts. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Inspiring and Challenging Story By Eudora Welty I have known "of" Betty Bobo but never heard her whole story. An amazing life, beautifully written! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Ann Important, inspiring, timely

Betty Bobo Pearson (b. 1922), a seventh-generation, plantation-born Mississippian, defied her cultural heritage and caused great personal pain for her parents and herself when she became an activist in the civil rights movement. Never fearing to break the mold in her search for the best, in her nineties she remains a strong, effective leader with a fun-loving, generous spirit. When Betty was eighteen months old, a train smashed into the car her mother was driving, killing Betty's beloved grandfather and severely injuring her grandmother. Thrown onto the engine's cow catcher, Betty lived and did not remember the accident. She did, however, grow up to fulfill her grandmother's prediction: Betty, God reached down and plucked you from in front of that train because he has something very special he wants you to do with your life. In 1943, twenty-one-year-old Betty, soon to graduate from the University of Mississippi, received a full tuition scholarship to Columbia Graduate School in New York City. Ecstatic, she rushed home to tell her parents. ABSOLUTELY NOT. There is no way I'll allow my daughter to live in Yankee Land, her father replied. After fierce argument and much door slamming, Betty could not defy her father. But she had to show him she was her own person. Her nation was at war so Betty joined the Marines. After the war, Betty married Bill Pearson and became mistress of Rainbow Plantation in the Delta. In 1955, she attended the Emmett Till trial (accompanied by her close friend and budding civil rights activist Florence Mars) and was shocked by the virulent degree of racism she witnessed there. Seeing her world in a new way, she became a courageous and dedicated supporter of the civil rights movement. Her activities severely fractured her close relationship with her parents. Yet, as a warm friend and bold, persuasive leader, Betty made an indelible mark in her church, in the Delta communities, in the lives of the people she employed, and in her beautiful garden at Rainbow.

This is a wonderful book and a fitting tribute to a rare human being who rose far above her heritage to repeatedly do the right thing in the race-torn Mississippi of the last half of the twentieth century. If you were a white Mississippian and fortunate enough to know Betty, her example was irrefutable evidence that you weren't doing enough to advance the day of racial reconciliation and reconstruction. She was quite literally *sui generis*, which is too bad. A platoon of Betty Pearsons would have sped the state toward a much earlier rendezvous with decency. Hodding Carter III This is the intimate, tell-it-all account of the life and career of one of the most remarkable women whom I have ever known. If Mississippi had had more people of conscience and courage like Betty Bobo Pearson and her friend, Florence Mars, we would have spared ourselves much unnecessary grief in the past, as we struggled with the issue of race. But this intriguing book is not just about race. It is an enlightening and inspiring insight into the character and values of one who was always true to herself and, as a result, to everyone else. William Winter Of all the amazing characters from the Mississippi Delta, Betty Pearson is one of the most admirable. As Delta Rainbow describes so nicely, Betty stood for social justice decades ago at the cost of estranging friends and family and she and her husband Bill have kept the faith as exemplary citizens into their 90s. Curtis Wilkie About the Author Sally Palmer Thomason, Memphis, Tennessee, was born, raised, and educated in California but has lived in Memphis over fifty years. She retired as the dean of continuing and corporate education at Rhodes College and has authored three books. Jean Carter Fisher, the catalyst for capturing Betty Bobo Pearson's story, has been a close friend of the Pearsons since the 1960s. As a licensed clinical social worker, Fisher previously worked at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. She is currently employed by Lakeside Behavioral Health System in Memphis, Tennessee.