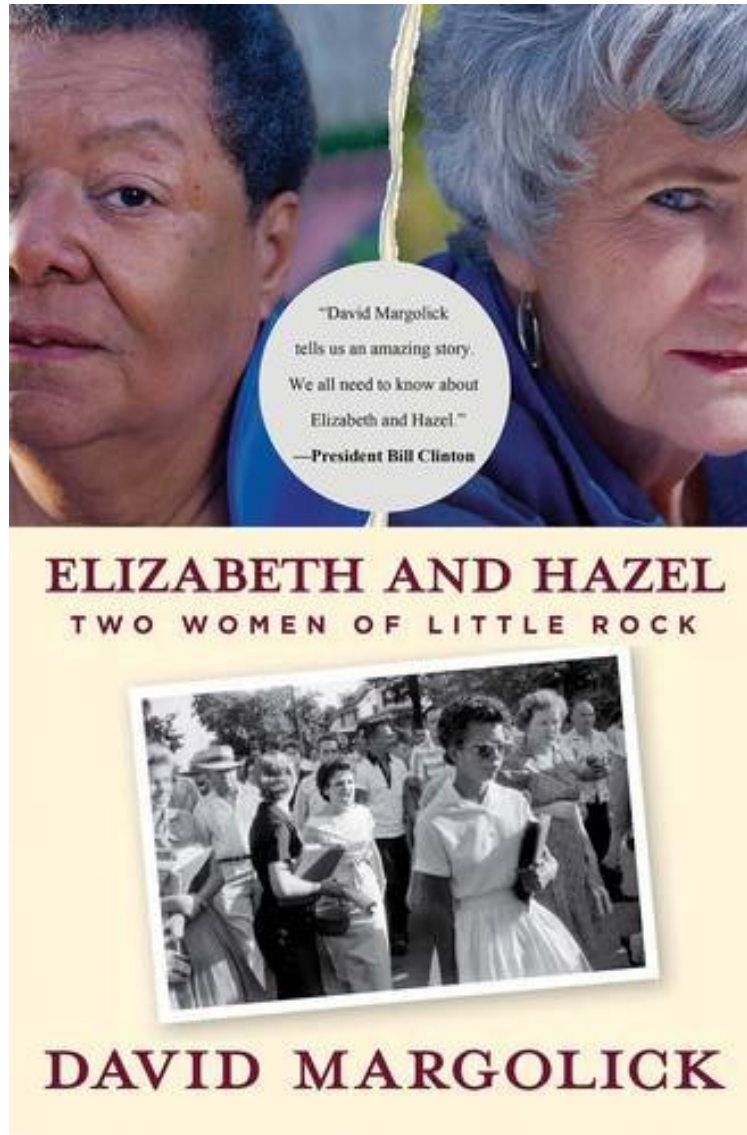


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Elizabeth and Hazel: Two Women of Little Rock

David Margolick

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#239249 in Books Yale University Press 2012-09-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.20 x 1.10 x 5.60l, .80 #File Name: 0300187920320 pagesGreat product! | File size: 28.Mb

David Margolick : Elizabeth and Hazel: Two Women of Little Rock before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Elizabeth and Hazel: Two Women of Little Rock:

52 of 52 people found the following review helpful. compelling story of civil rights memoryBy M.C.D.I read "Elizabeth and Hazel" last Friday in one sitting and found it to be an honest and highly compelling portrayal of both Little Rock Nine member, Elizabeth Eckford, and her iconic tormentor, Hazel Massery, in the years since the Little Rock desegregation crisis, a warts and all representation of the history.Margolick seemed particularly insightful in his

analysis of how the Little Rock public was eager to cash in on their 1997 reconciliation, but which then made Massery vulnerable as the apology scape-goat of the entire community. You read this book hoping for a happy ending, but perhaps it is a more accurate reflection of the state of current American race relations that one is not forthcoming. It's quite amazing that Eckford and Massery they gave author David Margolick permission to write so candidly about such a presently painful subject for them. I also loved the chapter on Louis Armstrong and the "lathered-up" photo. My only small complaint is an academic one - I wished there were more extensive footnotes and a bibliography at the end. 18 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Making the pain of the past go away...By Jill Meyeris not always an option, even after 50 years. David Margolick's study of one of American history's most iconic photographs, taken during the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School, reunites the two women in picture, Elizabeth Eckford and Hazel Bryan. Eckford, the 15 year old black girl who was carefully chosen by civil rights leaders in 1957 to be one of nine black students to first integrate the school. She is pictured enduring a gauntlet of screaming whites as she tries to walk towards the school. Her main tormenter, also a 15 year old girl, the white Bryan, is immortalised as a swearing, hateful figure right behind her. Several photographers were present and all took pictures of that moment in history. But history didn't end after the snapshot was taken. Both Eckford and Bryan went through life changes as they moved from the people they had been in 1957 to older, more mature women. Bryan, who transferred away from Little Rock Central, married young and began to look at herself and reconsider her core beliefs. Eckford, who stayed a year or so at the high school, was scarred by her time in the spotlight as one of the "Little Rock Nine". Determined later to be suffering from a form of PTSD from those traumatic days, combined with a depressive nature, Eckford rather drifted through life as a loner, holding jobs and raising two sons, and coming out occasionally to tell the history of the desegregation of the high school. Bryan also was a loner, despite having an active family life, and a few years after the incident at the high school, she called Eckford and apologised for her hateful actions. The years passed and Hazel Bryan became a "searcher" for her role in life. She and Elizabeth Eckford got together and actually became friends for a while, working together on race relation workshops. They traveled around together telling "their story", how the victim and the tormenter were able to bond and heal their wounds. But were they really able to do that? Certainly Eckford was suspicious of Bryan's "conversion" and of her "apology". Was it sincere? It seemed to me - the reader - that Hazel Bryan truly did have a life changing journey, but I am not Elizabeth Eckford and I did not suffer the indignities she did. David Margolick looks at both Elizabeth Eckford and Hazel Bryan and examines both their lives and the milieu both came from. Fifty years after "Little Rock" the wounds haven't healed completely. Margolick's book is a very good picture of a famous snapshot. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. David Margolick's well-crafted recounting of Elizabeth Eckford and Hazel Bryan Massery's parallel lives By Andy Orrock I greatly enjoyed David Margolick's well-crafted recounting of Elizabeth Eckford and Hazel Bryan Massery's parallel - and twice intersecting - lives. It's a history lesson and compelling personal narrative wrapped into one. Margolick's book begins from a standing start from Will Counts' iconic photo capturing Eckford's stoic, solitary walk to Little Rock Central High School on September 4th, 1957. The genius of Counts' photo is that it finds the trees in the forest. It depicts a 1-on-1 encounter between the-then Hazel Bryan - light literally shining on her - spewing venom in the background, and Eckford, head unbowed. Margolick's dissection of that photo - what led to it, breaking down the photo itself, and the history of the two woman from that moment - steer the narrative of the book. Eckford - wounded, brittle but ultimately triumphant - emerges from these pages as a true American hero. The surprise is Massery. Only 15 years old when the photo was snapped, Margolick's book captures the maturation and personal growth of a complex woman. It's worth noting that the words often adorning Counts' photo - "A life is more than a moment" - are Massery's, not Eckford's. I purchased Tantor Media's Audio CD version of this book. Narrator Carrington MacDuffie's lush southern drawl is a perfect match for this story. Her voice seems to lend the account an additional level of authenticity. I love the way 'school' comes out as 'skeul'...and I smiled every time 'rapprochement' came elegantly tumbling out her lips. You could do worse than to spend eight hours in her company. I love Tantor's one MP3-CD approach. To be able to listen to eight hours without once having to manage a CD change is a pleasure.

The names Elizabeth Eckford and Hazel Bryan Massery may not be well known, but the image of them from September 1957 surely is: a black high school girl, dressed in white, walking stoically in front of Little Rock Central High School, and a white girl standing directly behind her, face twisted in hate, screaming racial epithets. This famous photograph captures the full anguish of desegregation in Little Rock and throughout the South and an epic moment in the civil rights movement. In this gripping book, David Margolick tells the remarkable story of two separate lives unexpectedly braided together. He explores how the haunting picture of Elizabeth and Hazel came to be taken, its significance in the wider world, and why, for the next half-century, neither woman has ever escaped from its long shadow. He recounts Elizabeth's struggle to overcome the trauma of her hate-filled school experience, and Hazel's long efforts to atone for a fateful, horrible mistake. The book follows the painful journey of the two as they progress from apology to forgiveness to reconciliation and, amazingly, to friendship. This friendship foundered, then collapsed perhaps inevitably over the same fissures and misunderstandings that continue to permeate American race relations more than half a century after the unforgettable photograph at Little Rock. And yet, as Margolick explains, a

bond between Elizabeth and Hazel, silent but complex, endures.

"[Margolick] tells a story that is almost novelistic in its complexity. . . . Someday Elizabeth and Hazel will be a textbook. Long before, on the civil rights bookshelf, it will be considered a classic."Jesse Kornbluth, Headbutler.com, Huffington Post