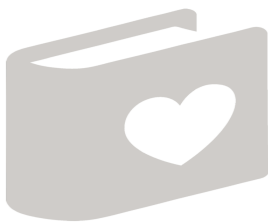


Looking For Harper Lee: An Essay By Mark Childress Looking For Harper Lee: An Essay Yesterday I started reading Scout Atticus & Boo: A Celebration of Fifty Years of To Kill a Mockingbird by documentary writer director producer and contributor to various newspapers and news magazines Mary McDonagh Murphy. It is a book of interviews with various friends of Harper Lee people involved in the making of the movie Alabama authors Southern authors teachers and journalists about their reactions to and memories of To Kill a Mockingbird interviews that were incorporated in the 2012 documentary Murphy produced for PBS. After reading his remarks here I sought out some of his work online and was able to download two of his books one a novel and the other this book which contains two essays. The first is titled Looking for Harper Lee and was written in 1993 as Mark says when Miss Lee was still hiding from the public; the other is called Something in the water and is adapted from his remarks on the occasion of accepting the Harper Lee Award. In the first he talks about his first introduction to Mockingbird which was a signed first edition he read the summer he turned 10 as he sat on the swing on the front porch of Miss Wanda and Mister Fred Biggs in Monroeville Alabama. What did he think? I believe that Harper Lee's charming story was in fact a work of subversive literature a popular book that did more to change white Southern attitudes about issues of race than any other work of art in this century. In the second essay he talks about Alabama writers of whom there are many (introducing me to some I'm going to have to follow up on) and of course talks about Miss Harper Lee. Looking For Harper Lee: An Essay Short and sweet--two magazine essays about Miss Lee but enjoyable because I am a fan of both and who isn't a fan of TKAM? Nice essays Mark but where is that promised new book (waiting since 1999!)? Looking For Harper Lee: An Essay Best-selling author Mark Childress also from Monroeville recounts the influence Harper Lee had on life his love of literature and the effect reading To Kill A Mockingbird had on his young mind when he first read it while nestled on a porch swing one sunny afternoon knowing she herself was just right down the road. Childress has received the Harper Lee Award for Alabamas Distinguished Author Thomas Wolfe Award the University of Alabamas Distinguished Alumni Award and the Alabama Library Associations Writer of the Year. Childress has received the Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Author Thomas Wolfe Award the University of Alabama's Distinguished Alumni Award and the Alabama Library Association's Writer of the Year:



I have read the first essay before probably while teaching TKAM, Good way to begin our summer reading project: Harper Lee and TKAM and GO SET A WATCHMAN: Looking For Harper Lee: An Essay Two short essays both interesting, Looking For Harper Lee: An Essay Best Book Ever My parents were from North Dakota and Minnesota: My Dad 's parents were from Germany my Mother's parents were from Norway, They did not understand why the Blacks were treated so badly: We had a family who lived in a house on our property who were black, They were like family to us and we loved them very much. My sister and I would visit them first whenever we came back to visit, One of the people whose comments are included is Alabaman author Mark Childress who won the Harper Lee Award of the University of Alabama in 2014, He tells his own impressions of the novel and how it impacted his life: Then he explains what impressed him about the writing and finally looks at it with hindsight: Then he talks about Nelle Harper Lee herself as one of America's great literary recluses . as invisible to her fans as Boo Radley was to the people of Maycomb: I loved how

he described his attempts to gain an interview with her: I won't tell you how that turned out; it might surprise you. It's a sweet tribute to her — about how much current Alabama writers owe Miss Lee for her beautiful example. What he didn't know when he wrote this essay was that he would get to meet her briefly after the ceremony. It's well written and I found his observations about *Mockingbird* really interesting: I think any fan of *Mockingbird* and Harper Lee would enjoy reading Mark's essays.

Looking For Harper Lee: An Essay

Mark Childress was born in Monroeville Alabama. He is the author of the novels *A WORLD MADE OF FIRE* *V FOR VICTOR* *TENDER CRAZY IN ALABAMA* *GONE FOR GOOD* *ONE MISSISSIPPI* and *GEORGIA BOTTOMS*. He is a staff member and a director of the Community of Writers at Squaw Valley: He has lived in Ohio Indiana Mississippi Louisiana Georgia California Costa Rica and currently lives in Key West Florida where he is writing his eighth novel and a film script: He is the author of the novels *A WORLD MADE OF FIRE* *V FOR VICTOR* *TENDER CRAZY IN ALABAMA* *GONE FOR GOOD* *ONE MISSISSIPPI* and *GEORGIA BOTTOMS*. He is a staff member and a director of the Community of Writers at Squaw Valley. He has lived in Ohio Indiana Mississippi Louisiana Georgia California Costa Rica and currently lives in Key West Florida where he is writing his eighth novel and a film script. Interesting memoir of the author and his connections to Lee. They came to America to find a better life . Dad gave bought them a house when we moved. Both essays are charming. . That probably meant more to him than the award. This book is short — fast and easy to read. Mark Childress was born in Monroeville Alabama. {site_link}.