



Why We Are Here: Mobile and the Spirit of a Southern City

Edward O. Wilson, Alex Harris

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From this historic collaboration between a beloved naturalist and a great American photographer emerges a South we've never encountered before.

Entranced by Edward O. Wilson's mesmerizing evocation of his Southern childhood in *The Naturalist* and *Anthill*, Alex Harris approached the scientist about collaborating on a book about Wilson's native world of Mobile, Alabama. Perceiving that Mobile was a city small enough to be captured through a lens yet old enough to have experienced a full epic cycle of tragedy and rebirth, the photographer and the naturalist joined forces to capture the rhythms of this storied Alabama Gulf region through a swirling tango of lyrical words and breathtaking images. With Wilson tracing his family's history from the Civil War through the Depression?when mule-driven wagons still clogged the roads?to Mobile's racial and environmental struggles to its cultural triumphs today, and with Harris stunningly capturing the mood of a radically transformed city that has adapted to the twenty-first century, the book becomes a universal story, one that tells us where we all come from and why we are here. 115 color photographs; 3 maps

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