



A Time of Terror: A Survivor's Story

By James Cameron

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A Time of Terror: A Survivor's Story By James Cameron

“I had done nothing that could really be called bad. I had been foolish, yes, but I had not done anything bad. The trouble was, this was Marion, Indiana, where there was very little room for foolish black boys.”

On a sweltering August night in 1930, two older boys invited sixteen-year-old Jimmie Cameron for what they said would be a joyride. Instead, they held up a young white couple parked in a remote Lover's Lane. The stickup went horribly wrong. The boys were arrested, dragged from jail by a mob, and lynched on the courthouse lawn before thousands of spectators. Miraculously, Cameron lived to tell the story.

He began writing his account while still a teenager, traumatized by the lynching and confined in a maximum-security adult prison. A talented storyteller, Cameron shows us the humor and horror of coming of age as a black child during the Jim Crow era. Populated by unforgettable characters both kind and cruel, *A Time of Terror* is a poignant story of anger and courage, forgiveness and redemption.

The memoir ends when Cameron leaves prison at age twenty-one, vowing to “pick up the loose ends of my life and weave them into something beautiful, worthwhile, and God-like.” The book’s Afterword by his protégé Reggie Jackson describes what Cameron accomplished in his next seventy-one years as a civil rights pioneer, working man, self-taught historian, writer, father of five, and founder of America’s Black Holocaust Museum.

The 3rd edition includes never-before-published chapters. It begins with a Foreword by James W. Loewen, author of *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*, explaining how Cameron’s story offers a corrective understanding of American history. The Introduction by educator Fran Kaplan and historian Robert S. Smith gives the reader an easily grasped and thorough grounding in the cultural context of young Cameron’s life.

To further support the reader—especially those of high school and college age—this edition contains 50 vintage photographs. Over 100 annotations next to Cameron’s text provide definitions of the era’s expressions, background on the characters and historic events he mentions, and fun facts.

This book, the only account ever written by a lynching survivor, is a unique and highly readable historical resource. It deserves a place alongside the works of other African American memoirists, such as Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Richard Wright, Maya Angelou, and President Barak Obama. Like the diary of his contemporary, Anne Frank, Cameron's memoir is an intimate view of a teenager's life forever changed by the brutal reality around him.

A Time of Terror is appropriate for secondary and post-secondary school course adoption, as well as university “common reads” for entering freshmen. Online guides are available for educators and book clubs.

Praise for *A Time of Terror*:

“The narrative is at once thrilling and unnerving—and interspersed with humor and philosophical reflections on humanity's predicament....An inspired meditation on individual human endeavor, comparable to Richard Wright's *Bigger Thomas*, but with an uplifting ending.” – **Dr. Stephen Small, African American Studies, University of California–Berkeley**

“This book and the history it recalls are vital reminders to us all, not only of the tragic national past, but the ongoing present reality of how racial injustice can poison the minds, hearts and institutions of a culture.” ?– **Tim Wise, antiracism educator and author of *White Like Me: Reflections on Race From a Privileged Son***

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Editorial Review

Review

"This forceful and absorbing tale sweeps the reader through a wide range of emotions. The narrative is at once thrilling and unnerving-and interspersed with humor and philosophical reflections on humanity's predicament. For incisive insights into the viciousness of white racism under Jim Crow-and the depths of the human spirit required to resist it, look no further. Cameron's memoir is an inspired meditation on individual human endeavor, comparable to the trials and tribulations of Richard Wright's *Bigger Thomas*, but with an uplifting ending." - Dr. Stephen Small, African American Studies, University of California-Berkeley, author of *Living History: The Legacy of Slavery in the Netherlands* "Though James Cameron himself has passed, his story and its importance to America live on through his powerful words in *A Time of Terror*. This book and the history it recalls are vital reminders to us all, not only of the tragic national past, but the ongoing present reality of how racial injustice can poison the minds, hearts and institutions of a culture." - Tim Wise, antiracism educator and author of *White Like Me: Reflections on Race From a Privileged Son* "While quiet in demeanor with a playful spirit, James Cameron was a force of nature and an unrelenting champion for civil rights. He overcame anger and hate as a young man, then dedicated his life to preserving and sharing African American history, eradicating racism and fulfilling the promise of America." -The Honorable Gwen S. Moore, United States Congress, Wisconsin 4th District

About the Author

Dr. James Cameron (1914-2006) founded America's Black Holocaust Museum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and published dozens of essays on American history, politics, and culture.

James W. "Jim" Loewen (born February 6, 1942) is an American sociologist, historian, and author, best known for his 1995 book, *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*. Loewen was born and raised in Decatur, Illinois. He attended Carleton College. In 1963, as a junior, he spent a semester in Mississippi, an experience in a different culture that led to his questioning what he had been taught about United States history. He was intrigued by learning about the unique place of nineteenth-century Chinese immigrants and their descendants in Mississippi culture, commonly thought of as biracial. Loewen went on to earn a PhD in sociology from Harvard University based on his research on Chinese Americans in Mississippi. Loewen first taught in Mississippi at Tougaloo College, a historically black college founded by the American Missionary Association after the American Civil War. For twenty years, Loewen taught about racism at the University of Vermont. Since 1997, he has been a Visiting Professor of Sociology at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Loewen spent two years at the Smithsonian Institution, where he studied and compared twelve American history textbooks then widely used throughout the United States. He published his findings in *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong* (1995). He concluded that textbook authors propagate factually false, Eurocentric, and mythologized views of history. The New Press in March 2012 listed *Lies My Teacher Told Me* as their top all-time bestseller. He believes that history should not be taught as straightforward facts and dates to memorize, but rather analysis of the context and root causes of events. Loewen recommends that teachers use two textbooks, so that students may realize the contradictions and ask questions, such as, "Why do the authors present the material like this?" Loewen points out that many of the distortions found in American History texts are "not even by the authors whose names grace the cover."

Dr. Fran Kaplan serves as coordinator of the America's Black Holocaust virtual Museum. She has been an educator, social worker, writer, and racial justice activist for nearly five decades. Fran has created and run nonprofit and for profit organizations that address issues from women's health and farmworker rights to

nurturing parenting, early childhood education, and peace-building. Fran is also a published writer and the producer of award-winning short and feature films. Her co-authored screenplay, *Fruit of the Tree*, about the life of James Cameron has won awards in national and regional competitions. The international trainer-consultant for a global parenting education program, Fran authored and co-produced its Spanish-language videos, books, and games. With Dr. Robert Smith, Dr. Kaplan curated and edited *Lynching: An American Folkway*, a digital transmedia anthology distributed by Biblioboard, Inc. to libraries across the country. Fran has been recognized by various organizations in Milwaukee and Wisconsin for promoting racial justice and providing leadership in children's and human rights.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Holly Taylor:

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information presently can get by anyone from everywhere. The information can be a expertise or any news even an issue. What people must be consider if those information which is from the former life are challenging to be find than now could be taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you receive the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen with you if you take *A Time of Terror: A Survivor's Story* as the daily resource information.

Isaias McGee:

This book untitled *A Time of Terror: A Survivor's Story* to be one of several books this best seller in this year, here is because when you read this guide you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this book in the book retailer or you can order it via online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, since you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason to you to past this reserve from your list.

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Charles Gray:

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