

South To America by Imani Perry

WINNER OF THE 2022 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR NONFICTION INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

"An elegant meditation on the complexities of the American South--and thus of America--by an esteemed daughter of the South, and one of the great intellectuals of our time. An inspiration." ... Google Books

Imani Perry invites us to delve into The South and all its complexities. She presents a rich picture of diversity and place, through her own experience, as well as the historical, cultural and economics of these different regions. If you thought that The South was one region, you won't after reading this book.

The book is broken into three categories: Origin Stories, The Solidified South and Water People. She then takes you to these beautiful and terrifying locals to teach you more than you ever knew about the South. Her story shows the impact that this diverse area has had on our Country. She suggests that without the South, there would be no country. This book offers so much knowledge. She concludes that our dreams aren't dead, but that they need to include us, they need to be WE dreams. She challenges us to "throw a wrench in the works", to not be indifferent to injustice and prejudice. That if America is to be salvific, we need to let the dreams of all those who toiled, ran, were captured and punished become OUR dreams as well. We need to understand, we need to see those dreams by looking South to America.

Our book group rated the book as a 7 out of 10. Some felt that it jumped around so could be hard to follow. We particularly enjoyed the Water People section and the information on the Sea Islands and the Low Country. The story of Ibo Landing where enslaved people took over their captor's ship and then committed mass suicide rather than submitting to enslavement was incredible.