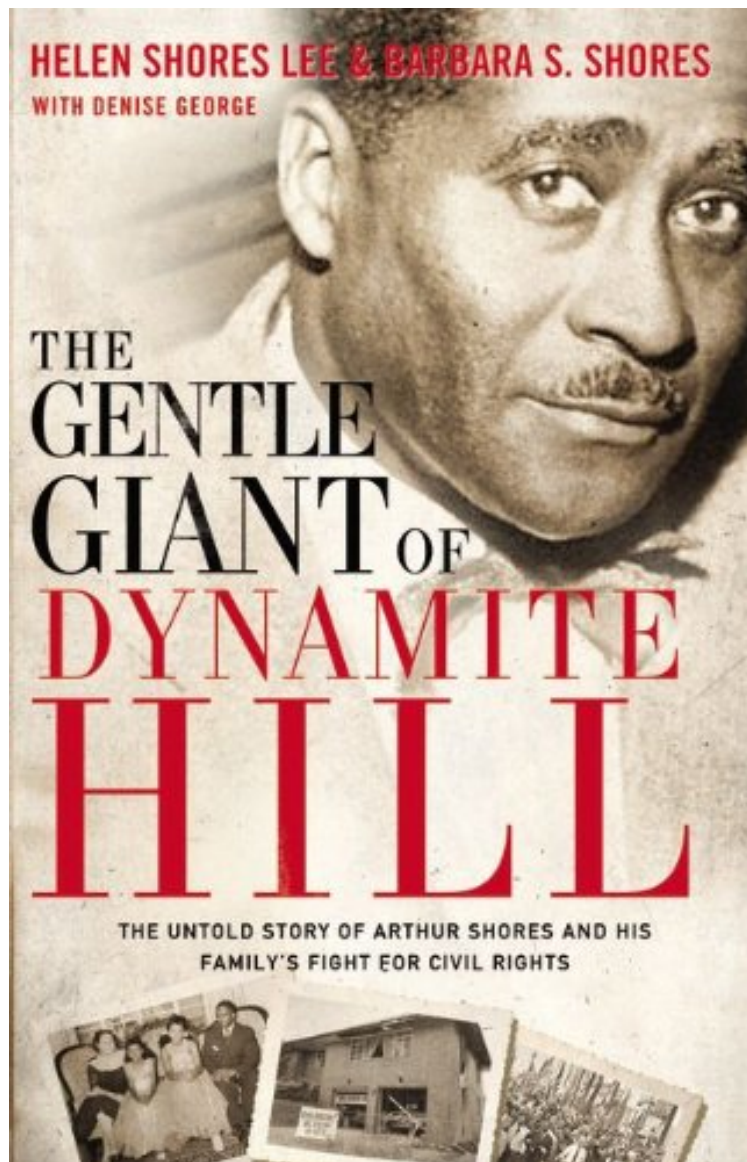


(Mobile library) The Gentle Giant of Dynamite Hill: The Untold Story of Arthur Shores and His Family's Fight for Civil Rights

The Gentle Giant of Dynamite Hill: The Untold Story of Arthur Shores and His Family's Fight for Civil Rights

Helen Shores Lee, Barbara Sylvia Shores
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Helen Shores Lee, Barbara Sylvia Shores : The Gentle Giant of Dynamite Hill: The Untold Story of Arthur Shores and His Family's Fight for Civil Rights before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gentle Giant of Dynamite Hill: The Untold Story of Arthur Shores and His Family's Fight for Civil Rights:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Important American History brought to lifeBy RCGA good book for many who think they understand our country's history. Many Americans, like myself, grew up in parts of our country where whatever information came through about the Jim Crow South (and the battle for civil rights), seemed like something very distant or from another country. Hence, it seemed unreal and not really part of the America that I grew up in. But to those living in that culture and system it was anything but distant or unreal. This book helps bring an important part of our history to life and it does so in a very warm and personal way. By the time I'd read less than half the book I felt like I knew the Shores family personally and my heart was very touched. As a Caucasian man who is around the same age as the authors, and whose grandparents were immigrants from Russia, I couldn't help feel a deep sense of shame and sorrow over the discriminating attitudes and actions of fellow Americans toward a group of Americans who were not only fellow citizens and neighbors--but citizens who were to be loved and honored -- or as Jesus put it, "Love your neighbor as yourself" and "honor all men (i.e. people)." But sadly, many of the horrific things that have been done in our land have been committed under the shameful flag of hypocrisy by people claiming to worship the same God as those they bombed in the 16th Ave Baptist Church at Birmingham, AL. My wife and I would heartily commend this book (and others like it such as *The Warmth of Other Suns* [a great book] etc.), to every American who may not really know or understand on a personal level, the things that took place in our own country over the past century. This book gives insights to a sad episode in our history wasn't in our textbooks when and where I went to school. And much of this is now being told with a clarity that was previously unavailable or not easily accessed. I think the time is overdue for Americans to really open our eyes to this sad part and era of our history. This book is can be a good place to start -- a very personal narrative that takes you inside where you feel like you actually get to know the people who write and those they are writing about, And it's an enjoyable way to learn about some incredibly sad, shameful and truthful things in our land. You won't regret it. And, it just may open up some understanding and communication between you and your neighbors, co-workers and fellow citizens who happen to be black. It has been that for me, and it's been special, if not long overdue! I appreciate so much the gentleness and integrity in the life of Arthur Shores. May God raise up many others like him in this hour who do not let anger infect and destroy their souls, and who by God's grace determine to be strong but with a forgiving spirit of gentleness and kindness toward others. Over the course of their lives, men like Author Shores promote righteousness, peace and healing in our land. "Blessed are the gentle." Read it -- you'll be richer for it! Sincerely, Rolland Goree

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book Every school house hold should read this bookBy bmoorerGreat book Every school house hold should read this book. Very educational, plus it's history that I wasn't aware of and I was around during the Civil Rights Era and wasn't aware of Arthur Shores. It was strange that Arthur Shores and Thurgood Marshall worked in the south and won there cases and Mr. Shores went on to win individual cases for black clients over pay, job, and civil discrimination. Every house hold should read this book regardless of RACE!

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Gentle, but he carried a gunBy CustomerTwo women who have achieved success in their respective chosen fields of law and social service look back at their childhood in black Birmingham under Jim Crow law. They were loved and protected by their parents, who taught them that all men, and women, were created equal. This is an articulate, first-person account, told in simple language of their father, Arthur Shores, the "gentle giant" of the title, and his involvement in civil rights issues from the thirties, when at one time he was the only black lawyer practicing in the state of Alabama. His clients were a Who's Who of civil rights leaders, (Martin Luther King, etc.) Many of the cases he accepted became milestones in the long fight for equal rights. For example, he represented numerous children arrested in the Birmingham Children's March, as well as Aurtherine Lucy, who was the first black person to seek admittance to the University of Alabama. All this involvement did not come without a price. He was a target, literally, of the Klan. Windows and walls of his home were routinely riddled with bullets and his home was bombed twice; a third bombing was thwarted at the last moment. He was a devout Christian but he kept several firearms in the house and carried one wherever he went, to protect his family from those who wished them harm. The authors recount how national civil rights leaders visiting Birmingham would stay at their home and eat at their table, where they would be safe. It is fitting that this civil rights warrior, who spent so much time jousting with the power structure of the city of Birmingham, eventually became a member of the city councilman, himself. This book reflects the authors' love and respect for both their parents and their pride in the achievements of their father, who unheralded and largely unknown outside of Birmingham made such an important contribution to so many people's lives. It is a very good read!

These are the firsthand accounts of sisters Helen and Barbara Shores growing up with their father, Arthur Shores, a prominent Civil Rights attorney, during the 60s in the Jim Crow south Birmingham district a frequent target of the Ku Klux Klan. Between 1948 and 1963, some 50 unsolved Klan bombings happened in Smithfield where the Shores family lived, earning their neighborhood the nickname Dynamite Hill. Due to his work, Shores daughter, Barbara, barely survived a kidnapping attempt. Twice, in 1963, Klan members bombed their home, sending Theodora to the hospital with a brain concussion and killing Tasso, the familys cocker spaniel. The family narrowly escaped a third bombing attempt on their home in the spring of 1965. The Gentle Giant of Dynamite Hill is an incredible story of a

family's unfair suffering, but also of the Shores overcoming. This family's sacrificial commitment, courage, determination, and triumph inspire us today through this story and the selfless service, work, and lives of Helen Shores Lee and Barbara Sylvia Shores.

About the Author Judge Helen Shores Lee was born in Birmingham, Alabama, to Arthur and Theodora Shores. She has been married to Robert M. Lee, Sr. for fifty years. Judge Lee and her husband have two sons, one daughter, and five grandchildren. They are members of First Congregational Christian Church where she formerly served on the Board of Trustees. Barbara Sylvia Shores was born in Birmingham, Alabama, to Arthur and Theodora Shores. She is mother of adult twins. Barbara has been employed with the Jefferson County Office of Senior Citizens Services for 26 years and is presently the Executive Director. She graduated from the University of Illinois in 1968 with her Masters in Social Work. Barbara is a member of the First Congregational Christian Church; Birmingham, Alabama. Denise George is the author of 27 books. She is the co-founder and co-teacher (with author Carolyn Tomlin) of the popular writing-to-publish seminars: Boot Camp for Christian Writers. She speaks frequently at seminaries, colleges, churches, and retreats. Her husband, Dr. Timothy George, is founding Dean of Beeson Divinity School, Samford University. They live in Birmingham, Alabama.