

Mississippi's Exiled Daughter

How My Civil Rights Baptism
Under Fire Shaped My Life



Brenda Travis with John Obee

Foreword by Bob Moses • Afterword by J. Randall O'Brien

NewSouth Books

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Brenda Travis, whose arrest as a teenager helped galvanize opposition to racial discrimination in Mississippi, tells her story in new book

“Welcome to the story of a high school student who had no idea that C. C. Bryant’s home, a stone’s throw down a dirt road from her own, would become the epicenter of a movement to change the nation, one that would also change her life and relationship to her state.”

—Bob Moses, from the foreword

Montgomery, Ala.: In 1961, 16-year-old Brenda Travis was a youth leader of the NAACP branch in her hometown of McComb, Mississippi. She joined in the early stages of voter registration, and when the Freedom Rides and direct action reached McComb, she and two SNCC workers sat-in at the local bus station. That led to her first arrest and jailing, which resulted in her being expelled and leading a protest walkout from her high school. Thrown in jail for a second time, she was eventually released on the condition that she leave the state. Her poignant memoir, *Mississippi’s Exiled Daughter: How My Civil Rights Baptism Under Fire Shaped My Life*, co-authored by John Obee and with a foreword by Bob Moses, describes what gave her the courage at such a young age to fight segregation, how the movement unfolded in Mississippi, and what happened after she was forced to move away from her family, friends, and fellow activists.

Bob Moses, the legendary civil rights activist who directed SNCC’s Mississippi Project, reflects on the history told in *Mississippi’s Exiled Daughter* and shares, “In retrospect, the Mississippi Theater of the civil rights movement took shape as low-grade guerrilla warfare. Every time we got knocked down we stood back up. Even so, Brenda Travis’s arrest set us into territory for which ‘get back up’ was not an option. There is no immediate ‘get back up’ from ‘jail, no bail.’”

Brenda Travis is the founder of The Brenda Travis Historical Education Foundation, an organization based in McComb, Mississippi whose mission is to teach civil rights history to today’s youth. She speaks widely to schools and civic groups about her experiences as a 1960s civil rights activist. Co-author John Obee also served in the civil rights movement in Mississippi. He is an adjunct professor of law at Michigan State College of Law and has lectured nationally and internationally on discrimination issues.

Mississippi’s Exiled Daughter will be available in June 2018 through your favorite local or online retailer. Retailers, contact Ingram Publisher Services (IPS) at 866-400-5351 or by email at ips@ingramcontent.com, or order via ipage.ingrambook.com. Trade Paper; ISBN: 978-1-58838-329-7; 160 pages; \$21.95.