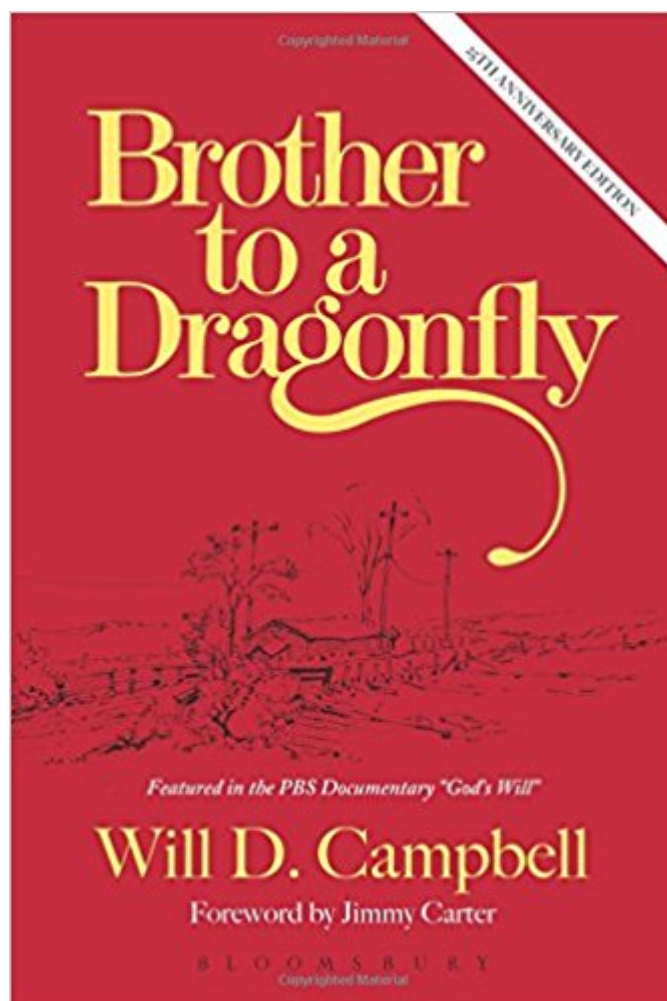




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# Brother To A Dragonfly: 25th Anniversary Edition



## Synopsis

Will Campbell's award-winning book shares two interrelated stories. One is of his youth in rural Mississippi and his devotion to his brother whose life ended in seeming tragedy. The other tells of his ordination at age 17 and gradual realization that civil rights for blacks, for women, for gays was an essential part of a ministry that has not yet ended.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"With pure earthy simplicity, Will Campbell has painted a masterpiece." - Jessi Coulter and Waylon Jennings "Will Campbell has a Southern capacity for nostalgia, and evokes it delicately but to strong purpose ... The two brothers' lives become mythic for the reader." - Robert Coles  
Brother to a Dragonfly is a fascinating mix of memories, vivid anecdotes, poignant stories, and portraits of interesting people. Brother to a Dragonfly has lost none of its zip and bravado over the years. Campbell's memoir is an emotionally charged account of the deep bonds between two brothers and the demons both had to struggle to exorcise. It also presents an idiosyncratic and very needed approach to the spiritual practices of compassion and justice.  
• - Reviewed by Cultural Information Service "Evokes Mark Twain ... Part biography, part philosophy, and in all, an anecdotal feast. Brother to a Dragonfly becomes in the reading of it a factor in all our lives." - Jules Feiffer "A very well-written, touching book." - David Halberstam "Will Campbell's life has been one of helping us lay down the burden of race ... His spirit and his superb writing make Brother to a Dragonfly stand out among memoirs of the Movement." - Hon. John Lewis "A fascinating and important book - a

biography, it is as compelling as a fine novel, is packed with deep emotional appeals, strong humor, and convincing characterizations, and more than any other single book I know tells what Southern life is like on the rough side, where the lath and plaster have not been smoothed off, including matters of daily bread, race, and the belief in Jesus Christ." - Robert Penn Warren

I don't know where I've been, but I'd never heard of Will Campbell or *Brother to a Dragonfly*. What a book! My mind was making little explosions as I read through the pages of this memoir about two brothers, the South, and racism. The telling of it touched me deeply. What I take away from it now is different than what I would have taken away as a younger person--and times have changed. We go through evolutions in our lives, and we come to see things differently than we once did. Will Campbell, as well, learns and sorts as he goes. The imagery is powerful, and the message is powerful. The book's two threads, interwoven to the end, captivated me: the brothers and their somewhat painful but loyal and loving relationship, and the preacher who is the man for the job as he carries the race burden for the marginalized and strives to use his life to awaken the country to its ignorance and injustice. Campbell's total conversion, after twenty years of preaching, is worth reading. He is asked which one of two men does God love most, a man who was recently murdered? Or the person who murdered him? Campbell struggles to answer. Moments later he has an epiphany. " Suddenly everything became clear. Everything. It was a revelation. The glow of the malt which we were well into by then seemed to illuminate and intensify it. I walked across the room and opened the blind, staring directly into the glare of the street light. And I began to whimper. But the crying was interspersed with laughter. It was a strange experience. . ."He sees truth and it looks different. He sees his own wrong thinking even in his well-doing. This leads him in a new direction which is misunderstood by others. I believe one has to appreciate Campbell's mainspring, his faith, to fully understand where it takes him. *Brother to a Dragonfly* covers history I remember from my childhood. One is presented with life and injustice. Your own values and, quite possibly, beliefs about others will be up for reconsideration. Will's brother is troubled which adds another dimension. This poignant tale is for the person who wants to be stretched. It is a fascinating read.

I don't have many notes from this book. But it feels like one of those big books that will never leave you, even though it is fairly short. I learned about this author recently through a book about the South. I wanted to read a Will Campbell book and I thought I would start with this one (more are on the way). For all of his American civil rights pioneering work he could have easily made this book about himself. But no - it is in fact mostly about his brother Joe - the Dragonfly who is a hero turned

cheerleader turned . . . drug addict, but never the enemy. My one complaint is that I wanted Rev. Will to talk more about his own heroics, and less about Joe's troubles. But it's his book, and it was his brother. When Will does write about himself it's more confessional than anything. There are descriptions of things from his childhood and grandparents and the "real" South that are some of the most profound and moving and heartbreaking things I've read. P.S. I got the 25th Anniversary edition - which seems to be fairly identical to the regular book, but has a brief foreword by Jimmy Carter.

Brother to a dragonfly, Will D Campbell's brilliant, evocative, nostalgic luminous memoir tells the story of his family in the pre-tva rural south. Though much much more than a simple coming of age story, it is the story of 2 brothers, their lives amid the greatest change in this country since the civil war. Will D Campbell and his brother Joe stories are told so movingly, and with such deep power that, by the end it will move you to tears. It is the story of a man, family, RELIGION, the south, race, addiction, love and death. It will shatter any preconceived notions and stereotypes, for Will D Campbell is a true iconoclast. I run out of superlatives to describe this book. Read it.

WOW what a book with twists and turns

The book is in good condition. The person (s) who had it before chose to earmark the pages by folding down the corner of the page. I had been wanting to read Will Campbell's take on race relations for quite some time. It is somewhat painful to read, but I'm guessing it is painfully accurate.

early version of hillbilly elegy.

Thoughtful, rambunctious story set in the rural South about pastor Will Campbell and his beloved brother. Will journeys from youthful hell-raiser to sophisticated liberal during the civil rights era and then has an epiphany about the humanity of the haters among us.

A heartwarming story. A compassionate remembrance of a not so perfect brother.

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