



This Little Light of Mine: The Life of Fannie Lou Hamer

By Kay Mills

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The biography of the black woman who was beaten when she tried to register to vote in the South tells of the growing resolve that led her to found the National Women's Political Caucus and devote her life to the expansion of civil rights. 25,000 first printing. Tour.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

An unlettered Mississippi cotton-picker, Fannie Lou Hamer (1918-1977) led the black Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party at the 1964 Democratic Convention and was, to many in the civil rights movement, "the most inspirational person they ever knew." In this thorough, sensitive biography, Mills (A Place in the News) shows Hamer inspired by her mother and her faith, propelled by anger at her unbidden sterilization and sustained by deeply spiritual, invoking songs, like the one that serves as this book's title. Drawing on published sources and interviews with principals, Mills reconstructs the efforts of civil rights activists to register fearful rural voters, depicts how Hamer shifted "from private outrage to public person" and describes how her politics evolved to include social reconstruction. Mills doesn't ignore complexities: she details controversies over Hamer's role in a local Mississippi Head Start program and in a race for Democratic national committeewoman and indicates that certain middle-class blacks were alienated from her. The book emphasizes Hamer's public life more than her private one; Mills notes that Hamer rarely spoke about her family. Photos not seen by PW.

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From School Library Journal

YA-A biography that captures the pain, sorrow, and joy of a spirited woman who fought for basic human rights. Born into a black sharecroppers' family in rural Mississippi, Hamer was always reaching out; as a child she would hop off a truck to retrieve a scrap of paper so she would have something to read. Undeterred by the threat of personal injury and the loss of her job, she organized and encouraged members of her race to register to vote. Mills chronicles Hamer's life and her resilience in the face of setbacks, showing how her indomitable light continues to shine.

Mary I. Quinn, Fairfax County Public Library, VA

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From Library Journal

Journalist Mills has written a moving, inspiring biography of black activist Fannie Lou Hamer. The daughter and wife of poor Mississippi sharecroppers, Hamer was "converted" to the Civil Rights movement after attending a mass voter-registration meeting in 1962. For the next 15 years, she was in the forefront of major struggles in Mississippi involving voter registration and economic and educational rights for its black citizens. To Mills, Hamer's ability to influence people came from a combination of energy, powerful public speaking, and an extraordinary talent in music and singing. While hardly perfect (she lacked organizational skills and too often refused to compromise), Fannie Lou Hamer was an inspiration to thousands of "foot soldiers" in the movement. This beautifully written tribute is highly recommended.

- Anthony O. Edmonds, Ball State Univ., Muncie, Ind.

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Ginger Amundson:

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Larry Moore:

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Rubin Bourne:

On this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability to do something more are more special than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you should do is just spending your time almost no but quite enough to get a look at some books. One of the books in the top record in your reading list is This Little Light of Mine: The Life of Fannie Lou Hamer. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking upward and review this book you can get many advantages.

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