

ANNE MOODY (1940-)

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As the author of the autobiography *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Anne Moody is one of the best-known writers of the civil rights movement.

The eldest daughter of African American sharecroppers Fred and Elmire Moody, she was born in Wilkinson County, Miss., on September 15, 1940, and later entered the segregated school system. In 1959 she attended Natchez Junior College on a basketball scholarship. After her transfer to Tougaloo College in Jackson, Miss., she became heavily involved in the civil rights movement, working with the NAACP, helping to set up the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), doing voter registration with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and taking part in a sit-in at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Jackson. She graduated from Tougaloo in 1964 and spent a year as civil rights project coordinator at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. She then moved to New York City, where she wrote *Coming of Age in Mississippi*.

In sections titled "Childhood," "High School," "College," and "The Movement," Moody's autobiography recounts her struggles as the daughter of a poor working mother, as well as her reaction to the killing of Emmett Till, her encounters with racism, and her involvement with the NAACP. Published in 1968, the book received the Best Book of the Year Award from the American Library Association in 1969 and eventually made its way into classrooms. Moody's collection of short stories, *Mr. Death*, was also published.

She continues to live in New York, where she works for the Poverty Program.

WORKS: *Coming of Age in Mississippi* (1968). *Mr. Death* (1975).

-MARK CANADA