



A Turn in the South (Vintage International)

By V. S. Naipaul

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In the tradition of political and cultural revelation V.S. Naipaul so brilliantly made his own in Among The Believers, A Turn In The South, his first book about the United States, is a revealing, disturbing, elegiac book about the American South -- from Atlanta to Charleston, Tallahassee to Tuskegee, Nashville to Chapel Hill.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

"Naipaul portrays the American South as a strange mixture of self-reliance and community, desperation and playfulness," wrote PW. "I like your changes/OK I suppose since the quote is ours?/PK" Part travelogue, part oral history, this ruminative ramble permits Naipaul to depict the South as only an 'outsider' could, with wonderment and multiple cross-cultural references."

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From Library Journal

In this work, parts of which originally appeared in the New Yorker, noted essayist and novelist Naipaul travels the American South in an attempt to explore and explain this unique region. Stopping at places as diverse as Atlanta and rural Mississippi, Naipaul develops contacts and sources which span race, class, and sex. He admits that at the start of his journey he had no central theme. And, indeed, at the end, no clear "mind" of the South emerges. Rather, the South seems infinitely varied in outlook and attitude, vaguely unified only by a common past that tends to emphasize a sense of order, reverence for "the land," and intense religious faith. Because of a perhaps necessary lack of focus, this will not be easy reading for everyone. But Naipaul's insights--and those of the Southerners he talks to--are penetrating enough to make this a valuable addition to most libraries.

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

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Review

"Naipaul's chapters honor the diversity that marks the South.... Conservatives and liberals, whites and blacks, men and women speak for themselves, and reveal the dark side of the story in their own ways...fascinating and revealing." -- Eugene D. Genovese, New Republic

"His writing is clean and beautiful, and he has a great eye for nuance.... No American writer could achieve [his] kind of evenhandedness, and it gives Naipaul's perceptions an almost built-in originality." -- Atlantic Monthly

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