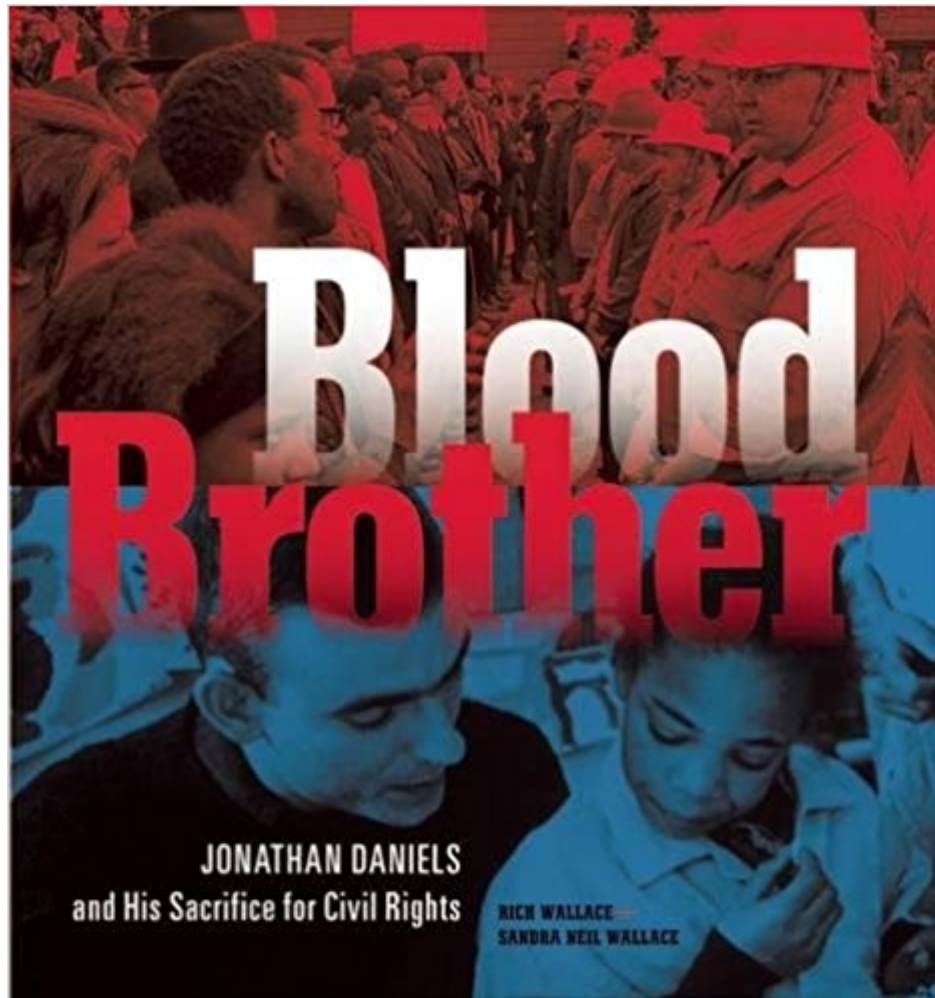




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Blood Brother: Jonathan Daniels And His Sacrifice For Civil Rights



Synopsis

A Booklist Editor's Choice
A Parents' Choice Gold Award
A Eureka! Nonfiction Children's Book Award Honor Book
Jonathan Daniels, a white seminary student from New Hampshire, traveled to Selma, Alabama, in 1965 to help with voter registration of black residents. After the voting rights marches, he remained in Alabama, in the area known as "Bloody Lowndes," an extremely dangerous area for white freedom fighters, to assist civil rights workers. Five months later, Jonathan Daniels was shot and killed while saving the life of Ruby Sales, a black teenager. Through Daniels's poignant letters, papers, photographs, and taped interviews, authors Rich Wallace and Sandra Neil Wallace explore what led Daniels to the moment of his death, the trial of his murderer, and how these events helped reshape both the legal and political climate of Lowndes County and the nation.

Book Information

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: Calkins Creek (September 13, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 162979094X

ISBN-13: 978-1629790947

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 1.4 x 10.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #247,054 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in Books > Teens > Biographies > Social Activists #42 in Books > Teens > Social Issues > Prejudice #56 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > United States > 20th Century

Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up • In a masterly demonstration of scholarly research and nonfiction writing, the Wallaces have crafted a powerful biographical narrative of civil rights activist Jonathan Daniels. Daniels traveled to Alabama in 1965 to participate in the Selma to Montgomery March, and he stayed on to become a part of the African American community there. Daniels worked alongside Stokely Carmichael, John Lewis, and other key activists in the civil rights struggle and ultimately lost his life in the violent aftermath of the efforts to secure voting rights for African Americans in Lowndes County. More than merely delineating the dates and places of Daniels's life and death, this work provides copious photographs, intimate interviews, and a variety of primary source documents to

clearly reveal the deep South of the 1960s with all of its disparities, prejudices, terrors, and injustices. While there are many historical details in the narrative, careful annotations and thorough indexing help readers keep track of the many players and scenes in this true-life drama. The authors have created a biography that brings to light the life and legacy of a lesser-known civil rights activist. The oppression of segregation and the violent means used to maintain it are depicted in shocking detail here, making the book more appropriate for mature readers. VERDICT This visually stunning and morally significant history is highly recommended for all high school collections. — Kelly Kingrey-Edwards, Blinn Junior College, Brenham, TX

TWO STARRED REVIEWS! "This powerful biography of a little-known figure underscores the fact that civil rights workers in the 1960s South knowingly put their lives on the line for the cause." The authors deftly convey Daniels' complex personality, drawing from letters and interviews, including 18 they conducted. Numerous photographs, relatively large print, and an open design invite readers in; An unusually inspiring story skillfully told." — Kirkus Reviews, starred review "Outside of his hometown (Keene, New Hampshire), the name Jonathan Daniels isn't well known, but it should be... a thoroughly researched, meticulously documented biography, which is interesting from the start, but increasingly absorbing... The many well-chosen photos show up beautifully on the large, glossy pages. The riveting story of one individual among the many working for Civil Rights during the 1960s." — Booklist, starred review "In a masterly demonstration of scholarly research and nonfiction writing, the Wallaces have crafted a powerful biographical narrative of civil rights activist Jonathan Daniels; careful annotations and thorough indexing help readers keep track of the many players and scenes in this true-life drama. The authors have created a biography that brings to light the life and legacy of a lesser-known civil rights activist; this visually stunning and morally significant history is highly recommended..." — School Library Journal A Booklist Editor's Choice A Parents' Choice Gold Award A Eureka! Nonfiction Children's Book Award Honor Title

I read a lot but rarely read non-fiction and often after starting a non-fiction book I don't finish it. That said Blood Brother was a compelling read all the way through. Even the follow-up story about how the authors became interested in Jonathan Daniel's story and their experiences in researching his story were fascinating. They capture in words the passion of this young man who bridged the racial divide in numerous communities bringing the fullness of his faith and humanity to one of the darker times in American history. Jonathan Daniels was a white Episcopal Seminary student who was

already doing work in the impoverished black community of Providence, Rhode Island when he heeded the call of Dr. King to come to Selma, Alabama. Jonathan and other white ministers from across the country arrived in Selma days after the first marchers were mercilessly beaten as they tried to march to the Capital. After a week most of the Whites had left, but Jonathon and a friend stayed. He carries on the fight for voter registration but also fights to be accepted by blacks who mistrusted all whites. In the end, he is murdered in cold blood and in a mockery of justice his murderer is found not guilty. The same day as I read of the civil rights protester of the summer of 1965 being met by police in riot gear I watched on my TV the police in Charlotte, North Carolina in riot gear with billy clubs facing off with protesters. This is a must read.

Wonderfully written true story of a little known hero of the Civil Rights Era, a man from NH who gave his life to save that of a young Black woman. Of the many books I have read, about Jonathan Daniels, this is by far the most interesting, and readable. Actually written for the YA, I recommend it highly to anyone interested in finding more about this person who marched with John Lewis, who is one of two 20th Century American martyrs listed in England's Canterbury Cathedral (the other being Martin Luther King), in whom, as Sy Montgomery penned, everyone can find traces of themselves in the life of Jonathan Daniels. His story reminds us that we can all be heroes.

“With my black brothers at my side, there was no longer anything to fear in all of Creation except my own blindness” - Jonathan Daniels Found this is the “New Releases” section in my local library a random find I don’t regret picking up and have since purchased. This book is outstanding. The story of this amazing human being’s life and fight for equality and civil rights is one that everyone should really discover. As I read this, I was saddened to have never heard of Jonathan Daniels which made this book a heart-pumping read. My admiration for those who fought for Civil Rights continues to grow, and Jonathan Daniels will be someone I will continue to share about; he talked the talk and was unwavering and fearless during a time where being a civil rights leader or activist/protester was amazingly brave and where being a white civil rights worker was the most courageous, dangerous, human right effort. As shown in this book, his sincere heart, his genuine actions, his unwavering dedication, his love for people; love and efforts for equality, his unending energy, enthusiasm and hope; and his sacrifice and spirit should continue to inspire us all, even now. He did me. This book; with its countless pictures (and documents, flyers, letters, clippings,

etc.) propel the storytelling and give us a name and face to the numerous Civil Rights heroes of the time, both African American and Caucasian. From people who worked closely with Jonathan, who witnessed his passion, were inspired with him, and/or changed by him, this book a turn-pager.

“Blood Brother” is powerful and emotional, human and important. It reminds you that one person can, indeed, make a difference and that students and young people can inspire change. The message is timeless and relevant in today’s society. Bravo to the authors who’ve written and research this book and this amazing life. Read this book!

Met the authors at ILA Convention and had to own a copy.

Touching moving story of a time that. Relates to present day civil rights. Struggles . Rest In Peace all who helped in the struggle for peace and fairness

Very well written. It was gut renching.

An outstanding book that reads like a movie because of the photographs on almost every other page and the swift, suspenseful, powerful narrative of the writers, a husband and wife team. Although it was displayed as a YA nonfiction book at the local high school, the book is for older readers as well. The story is of Jonathan Daniels, a white Episcopalian theology student who risks his life to put into practice his beliefs by going into early 1960s segregated and dangerous Alabama to assist blacks to register to vote and provide other aid. Undaunted by every obstacle he faced, including by members of his own church, and initially by mistrusting, terrified blacks, Jonathan comes to life in this wonderful book as a heroic and inspirational figure. Ultimately there is no question why Civil Rights leaders have honored him and the Episcopal Church designated him a saint.

Blood Brother is a powerful story of a Civil Rights martyr murdered in 1965 in Alabama, while he worked to help uphold voting rights for African Americans. I had previously never heard of the New Hampshire native and am glad the Wallaces have brought his story to light all these years later. This is a moving story at any time, but with today’s racial turmoil, it is exceptionally poignant.

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