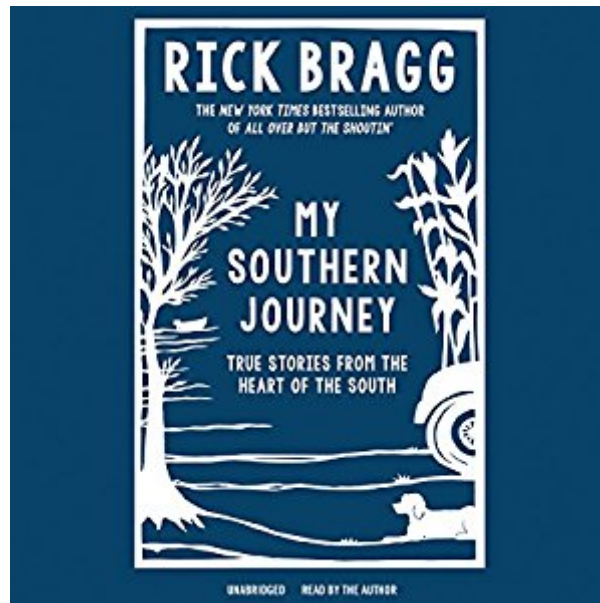




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# My Southern Journey: True Stories From The Heart Of The South



## Synopsis

From celebrated New York Times best-selling author and winner of the Pulitzer Prize Rick Bragg comes a poignant and wryly funny collection of essays on life in the South. Keenly observed and written with his insightful and deadpan sense of humor, Bragg explores enduring Southern truths about home, place, spirit, table, and the regions' varied geographies, including his native Alabama, Cajun country, and the Gulf Coast. Everything is explored, from regional obsessions with college football and fishing to mayonnaise and spoonbread to the simple beauty of a fish on the hook. Collected from over a decade of his writing, with many never-before-published essays written specifically for this edition, *My Southern Journey* is an entertaining and engaging listen, especially for Southerners (or Southerners at heart) and anyone who appreciates great writing.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I had expected a collection of short stories, but these are really brief flashes -- most only a page or two. At first I found this really annoying -- the author would reel me in with a catchy headline and a story and then boom! it was over. Dagnabbit as we used to say in the South, I want to sink my teeth into these vignettes, not have them whiz by only for me to turn the page and start another one. However, once I let that go, I got used to the cadence and the pages flew by as I chuckled and remembered when I used to live in the South. Bragg is at his best when he's writing about what is clearly one of his favorite topics, southern food. I was reading this on a Southwest airplane eating a teeny tiny bag of honey peanuts while he described his mama making cornbread: "Later my mama

would take the cracklin's and mix them in a skillet of cornmeal and then bake it. As the meal cooked, the essence of the cracklin's would melt through the pone of the bread, and when it was done she would cut it into triangles and serve it with pinto beans and stewed squash and slice Spanish onions and pickled pepper so hot it would blind a baby if he rubbed it on his eyes." I sat in my teeny airplane seat and I didn't know what in the heck pone is but I wanted some of that cornbread "right quick." My mouth watered as I ate my darn peanuts and began to plan my next trip home. And that's where Bragg's artistry lies - just a few sentences and you're there. I won't even repeat his description of a place called "Harold's Barbecue" because if I do both you, dear reader, and me are going to have to go eat something and I've got to finish this review. Also, I loved that he mentioned one of my favorite smoked fish shacks in St. Pete Florida... Ted Peter's. This man knows his food and I think his next book should be a food / travel-log of the South. But it's not all about the food.. it's the cadence, just the way of being in the South that's so unique and seems so strange when I fly back there from (crazy) California and feel the humidity and smell the biscuits. His description of his neighbors pulling together after a big tornado hit his town in Alabama made me wonder if my neighbors out here in California would do the same, I sure hope so. There's no hurt that can't be comforted with a casserole he says and I smile thinking of the countless casseroles that I've eaten in The South. Overall, well-written but a star off because I wanted these to be a little longer so I guess even that's a good sign. Y'all check it out, y'hear?

No one crafts a sentence like Rick Bragg. No one writes a better paragraph than Rick Bragg. This book, a collection of his essays in Southern Living magazine, has turned out to be my favorite of his books---I own 3 others. And here is the reason. Rick writes like a juggler. Tosses up a bit about this, then a bit about that, and then a bit about this other part, rinse and repeat. After awhile my head starts to hurt...sort of literary whiplash. Beautiful, lyrical prose that I very much envy, but my personal preference is for a more linear progress. So this book is his best, for me, because the essay constraints force a tighter focus. I'm glad to have it.

If one could rate this wonderful book with 10 stars , I don't think that would be enough. This is a delightful and hilarious read furnishing an accurate depiction of our Southern way of life. I want to highly recommend this book. It's an excellent choice for a Christmas present. The recipient of this book will have a joyful holiday. I'm especially fond of the essay on Skinny jeans and the essay on "Piddling ". I ordered 3 copies and plan to order a few more. It's delightful!

I adore reading Rick Bragg! Being a native Atlantan it's a refreshing look at country and the small things in life that matter. I save his articles in southern living magazine, scan them and share these fun articles with friends. It would be a great gift for anyone spending time in recovery or sitting taking in chemo to pass the time... He is truly talented and it shows that he loves and respects his momma, food, family , nature and critters.Love yah Rick !

Oh, my goodness, how I did enjoy reading every single word in this book! Having been born and raised in LA, that's Lower Alabama for y'all that think otherwise, this book brought home so many memories! Things thought of that had been dormant for a very long time! Reading about the food, fishing, firecrackers, Christmas lights, mules, cotton fields and cotton pickin' , aunts, uncles, cousins and all his people, and of course football, was all nostalgic and at times so funny I plumb laughed out loud. Mr. Bragg, you brought me home and I am grateful. Read this book!! Darn tooten you will not be disappointed!

Oh, I am so glad I took this journey. I love how Rick Bragg thinks and writes. Stories of Place is my favorite section of the book. His column about his love of real books speaks to all readers. His coinage "loafing" is great. His voice delights me every time I begin reading his latest. This is a feel good read, the kind you want to curl up with when you just don't want to be bothered by the world.

Loved it, from beginning to end. Rick took me on his journey of the South's fine food, like nowhere else on earth. His writing is exceptional and his memories are shared with many children who grew up in the same era, yeah, me too.Thank you for your boldness, honesty and perserverence.Deb Kemper author of Mallory Ridge, Full Mackintosh and The Belles in Scotland

From food to family to place, this truly is a journey through Southern life and not just Bragg's Southern life. It takes you there even when, like I am, you're already here. It brought back memories of my own journey, and it made me think of stories I've heard told by less gifted writers but still evocative storytellers. I subscribe to Southern Living, so I had already read some of essays. I actually like that; those are some of Bragg's greatest stories. Most of these essays are the kind that I would revisit anyway, particularly when I'm homesick or want to revisit the past. And finally, only Rick Bragg could make this Tennessee fan sentimental over Alabama football, of all things!

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