

# Speaking Engagements on Emmett Till

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## THE COMPLETE TILL STORY: From Legacy to Redemption

Dr. Clenora Hudson-Weems is the author of 4 Emmett Till books, including *Emmett Till--Legacy, Redemption & Forgiveness* (2014), upon which her film script is based. Her research reflects 30 years on Till, which begins with the lynching of this 14-year-old black Chicago youth on August 28, 1955 for his naive act--whistling at a 21-year-old white woman, Carolyn Bryant, in Money, MS. It details the challenges of resurrecting and establishing this child as the catalyst of the Civil Rights Movement. Thus, the complete Till story culminates in freeing him from the stigma of being an embarrassment to the Movement to its catalyst.

Her 1<sup>st</sup> Till book, *Emmett Till: The Sacrificial Lamb of the Civil Rights Movement* (1994), is a publication of her 1988 Ford doctoral dissertation (U of Iowa), "Emmett Till: The Impetus of the Modern Civil Rights Movement," the 1st full length study/book on Till as the true catalyst:

*Dr. C. Eric Lincoln* of Duke U--In *Emmett Till*, she challenges the most sacred shibboleths of the origins of the C. R. M. . . . She says a lot American needs to hear again right now.

*Dr. John Blassingame*, Yale U--When you really think about it, Hudson-Weems is absolutely right. We historians missed it.

*Mamie Till Mobley*, mother of Emmett--Hudson-Weems has dug relentlessly into Southern justice, revealing the stench and ugliness of race hatred, American style.

Her last book puts a new twist on the Till Story--the atonement and redemption of John Whitten, the young defense attorney for the murderers. Remorseful for his role, he later sought atonement by representing blacks in MS *pro bono*. Yet this story neither softens the ugliness of racism, nor diminishes Till's proper place as the true catalyst of the CRM; it allows for a more far-reaching and long-lasting impact on people and society.

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