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Clenora Hudson, PhD, Professor, Theorist, Producer, Film Writer, and Author of *Africana Womanism: Reclaiming Ourselves* (1993); *Africana Womanist Literary Theory* (2004); *Africana Womanism and Race and Gender in the Presidential Candidacy of Barack Obama* (2008-9); *Emmett Till: The Sacrificial Lamb of the Civil Rights Movement* (1994), from her Doctoral Dissertation (1988); *The Definitive Emmett Till: Passion and Battle of a Woman for Truth and Intellectual Justice* (2007) and editor of *Plagiarism—Physical and Intellectual Lynchings: An Emmett Till Continuum* (2007). Hudson was interviewed on her groundbreaking “Emmett Till” and “Africana Womanism” works by *The American Audio Prose Library* (1995). Co-author of *Toni Morrison* (1990), she is also editor of *Contemporary Africana Theory, Thought and Action: A Guide to Africana Studies* (2007).

A recipient of numerous honors and awards, including Ford Fellowships, National Endowment for the Humanities, the CIC Internship, Proclamations, and Keys to Cities, she and co-author, Dr. Wilfred D. Samuels, received a 1998 Toni Morrison Society Book Award for *Toni Morrison*, the 1st book on this Nobel Prize-Winning author. Clenora served as National Chair for several Till Conferences, and was a distinguished Honoree for the 1st International Africana Womanism Conference, hosted by the U of Zimbabwe (Africa) in 2010. She wrote the Till film script.



“So help me God, until my dying day, I’m going to be fighting this thing. I’m not going to be fighting color. I’m not going to be fighting creed. I’m not going to be fighting anyone’s belief, so long as it’s a safe and sound one, so long as it doesn’t reach out and destroy me or destroy someone else. . . . We should stand up, we should make a stand once and for all, we should say that we’re going to live as men and women.”

(Excerpt, Mamie’s 2nd speaking engagement in South Bend, IN, following the trial in Money, MS, OCT 1955--Hudson-Weems, *Emmett Till: Sacrificial Lamb of the Civil Rights Movement*, 1994, p. 240)

The fervent prayers of Till’s mother, Mamie Till Mobley, for everlasting justice and transcendent mercy have been finally answered through this gripping narrative by Dr. Clenora Hudson-Weems. *Emmett* speaks eternal truth to power.

—Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.—President and CEO National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA)

Truly we have witnessed it all. We have seen the anger, felt the pain, endured the violence. From submissiveness, to rebellion, to assimilation, at last Emmett’s story and Whitten’s redemption bring true heroes and iconic models for us all.

—Aubrey Bruce--Senior Sports Columnist
New Pittsburgh Courier

In *Emmett*, Clenora gives us all that we need to advance to positive 21st. century race relations, which could greatly curtail racial domination thus, escalating to racial healing. A cause célèbre, coming on the heels of *The Butler, 12 Years a Slave* and *Selma*, *Emmett* no doubt is both timely and urgent!

—Barry Morrow--Oscar Award Winning Co-Writer of
Rain Man and Producer



Emmett

Legacy, Redemption and Forgiveness



A Historical Novel

Clenora Hudson,
PhD

Clenora’s narration of the genesis of the Civil Rights Movement comes from her pioneering 1988 Ford doctoral dissertation (U of Iowa). Now she offers a possible solution to racism—Remorse, Redemption and Forgiveness. Presented here at its ugliest, Emmett Till’s bloated face touched the world!

—Atty. Alvin O. Chambliss, Jr.—2006 Charles Hamilton Houston Prof. of Law (NCCU); *Last Original Civil Rights Attorney in America*

The first to establish the 1955 brutal lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till as the true catalyst of the Modern Civil Rights Movement of the 50s and 60s was Clenora Hudson to whom God Almighty gave the vision. Here she offers a complete interpretation of the naïve act of this Black Chicago youth—whistling at a 21-year-old white woman, Carolyn Bryant, in Money, MS. An American taboo, it ultimately sparked a Movement that indelibly impacted many, forever altering American culture, both socially and politically. People abroad, too, were impacted upon, as they were astounded by the lynching of an innocent child. With Till as a cause célèbre, one shocked European inquirer asked, “ARE YOU FROM THE LAND WHERE THE BOY WAS KILLED?”

In challenging the Academy in her persuasion to make Emmett Till the subject of her 1988 Ford Doctoral Dissertation, Clenora details the powerful pervasive facts that impacted so many. His mother, Mamie Till, made a lifetime commitment to her only child to change racist minds and laws in America with the help of God. Rayfield Mooty, a Labor Union leader, Civil Rights Activist and Mamie’s second cousin, vowed to support her as her advisor, thus, becoming the supreme strategist. Finally, there was the Spirit of Redemption, Atty. John Whitten, Jr., who delivered the closing remarks for the defense. He evolved from a racist to a remorseful sympathizer, subsequently spending his life representing poor Blacks in the state of Mississippi “pro bono” as an act of atonement, indeed, an exemplar for correcting racist attitudes and acts.

As victimization and racial healing unfold, we hear the stories told through the eyes of these four main characters, attesting that the true ugliness of racism, symbolized by Emmett’s bloated face, must be eradicated. Racism is not a benign phenomenon, but rather a toxic malignancy, waiting to be purged from our hearts and souls forever. With that, America can be what it was originally intended to be when the first immigrants landed upon these shores from foreign lands. This, even now, could bring about a long awaited racial healing, thereby rendering our world one less battle to endure. Indeed, the universality of racism and racial healing through God’s blessings reigns high!

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