

"As I became enamored with life in Mississippi, I grew dismayed by the prejudices most of America still harbors regarding this vulnerable region."

— Daisy Karam-Read

'From Manhattan to Mississippi' shines positive light being a Mississippian today

Mississippi. The book is small and easy to read. It will make you smile and make you proud, kind of like someone bringing one of your

family members. Though undersized, the book hits many high points. Among them, the ability of Mississippians to tell a good story, the way we keep private matters private (in contrast

to her friends

and colleagues in Los Angeles and New York.) The author talks about the value we place on food and family, how everybody is somebody's cousin, and how we're not all Bubbas, some have French, Spanish, Cajun and Creole

strangers. The chapter "Little Known Assets" addresses our often misunderstood political history in a wonderfully succinct manner. "Like all American school children, I studied the Civil War. Our lessons included Jefferson Davis and his role as the father of the Confederacy. But we studied, 'The War of Rebellion' in a cursory manner. Upon moving

to Ocean Springs, I was astounded to learn that some in this area still call that terrible conflict "the War of Northern Aggression" and even more astounded to find that some Union soldiers behaved very badly during that war. Had I received, even in liberal New York, a biased education? Was I given incomplete information?" Daisy Karam-Read goes

on to talk about Jefferson Davis, the Jefferson Davis Library and the wonderful history of Beauvoir House before and after Hurricane Katrina.

This book shines a positive bright light on our well kept secret. The secret of what it means to be a Mississippian today.

Read says, "You don't become a part of the South; the South becomes a part of

you." And it sounds as though the south has truly become a part of Daisy Karam-Read.

"From Manhattan to Mississippi" is a must-have for all book shelves in Mississippi. It would make a great gift for those who "aren't from around here."

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By REBA McMELLON

The Mississippi Press European by birth, a New Yorker for most of her life, and a resident of Los Angeles for 14 years, Daisy Karam-Read never anticipated settling

down in South Mississippi.

When she moved to Ocean

Springs in mid-1998, she was amazed by the people and lifestyle she encountered. "I discovered the talents of

Mississippi's women, the courage of its citizens, the voice of its

men, its unashamed but balanced religious convictions and much more," Read said.

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Written from the perspective of a New Yorker, "From Manhattan to Mississippi" is a book of essays written in first person based on the author's new found love and respect for the great state of

TO GO

What: Brown Bag Lunch Series book signing. Daisy Karam-Read will read from and sign "From Manhattan to Mississippi"

Where: Walter Anderson Museum of Art
When: Tuesday at noon

Admission: Event is free with museum admission. Drinks will be provided

Details: Call (228) 872-3164

TO READ

"From Manhattan to Mississippi: A New Yorker Falls in Love with the South"

By Daisy Karam-Read
Published by Quail Ridge Press
October 2007
\$12

our Grandmothers and Great-grandmothers with pride.

"From Manhattan to Mississippi" talks of the generous spirit of those who live here. She describes her surprise at how a doctor's waiting room becomes a place of support and genuine interest from complete

