



Emmett Till



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Synopsis

It is the summer of 2000 and 79 year-old Mamie Till Bradley Mobley is mortified to read about the death of 17 year-old Raynard Johnson, found hanging from a tree in front of his Mississippi home for dating a white girl. His death ruled a suicide, this injustice reminds Mamie of her own tragic story, the murder of her only son Emmett.

We flash back to pre-Civil Rights era 1955 and we witness 14 year-old Emmett Till preparing for his right of passage, his very first trip alone "down South." Money, Mississippi is the town and Emmett (BoBo) is overwhelmed by the massive deposits of undisturbed land, the unrepentant heat, and of course ole' Jim Crowe. He is warned by his mother, friends, and relatives that Mississippi as tranquil and respiting as it appears offers no mercy to Negroes who don't know their place.

His summer couldn't be more enjoyable until Emmett and his cousins skip church and decide to go to an old hang-out, Bryant's Grocery. At Bryant's Emmett is issued a dare from the locals concerning the store owner's wife. The dare appears harmless, except the store owner's wife is white, and this is 1955. Days later and in the wee hours of the night, Emmett's Uncle Mose is awakened by the brouhaha of two unsuspecting white men who have come for the "nigger who done the talking" down at their store. Everyone is startled except Emmett, as the family watches the captors lead him away into the darkness.

Three dreadful and anguished days later, Emmett's unrecognizable body is pulled from the tangled banks of the Tallahatchie River and the country as we know it was forever changed. The emotional roller coaster ride has commenced, triggered by the picture of young Emmett's gruesome and disfigured corpse displayed in a little known publication called *JET* magazine. A clandestine caption underneath proclaims to the entire world, "let the people see what I have seen, my son's death will not be in vain."

Much of the nation and the resilience of a family which rallies around a young Mamie Till as she strategically fuses the media and the untouched hearts of America in order to garner a "fair" trial in the state that values its cattle more than its Negro citizens. Be jolted by the tenacity, fearlessness, and leadership of an unknown field secretary for the NAACP Medgar Evers, who has less than 24 hours to produce key witnesses to the crime who have "mysteriously disappeared". With their precious lives on the line will they be able to convince the workers to give up their very freedom in order to bring justice to the murderers in this heinous crime?

"Till" a two-part miniseries based on the life of a 14 year-old Chicago native Emmett Till, who in 1955 was savagely beaten, then murdered during his summer visit with relatives in Money, Mississippi for allegedly whistling at a white woman. Emmett's tragic death, the acquittal of and shocking confession of the men involved galvanized the imminent Civil Rights Movement.

Emmett Till's legacy for years has been solely recapitulated through a single paragraph in our history books. Finally, his story can be heard, as his life is captured in retrospect through the eyes of his mother, who waged a battle from within and inspired a movement.

"Before there was Rosa Parks, the 4 Little Girls, or the Freedom Riders....there was Emmett Till."