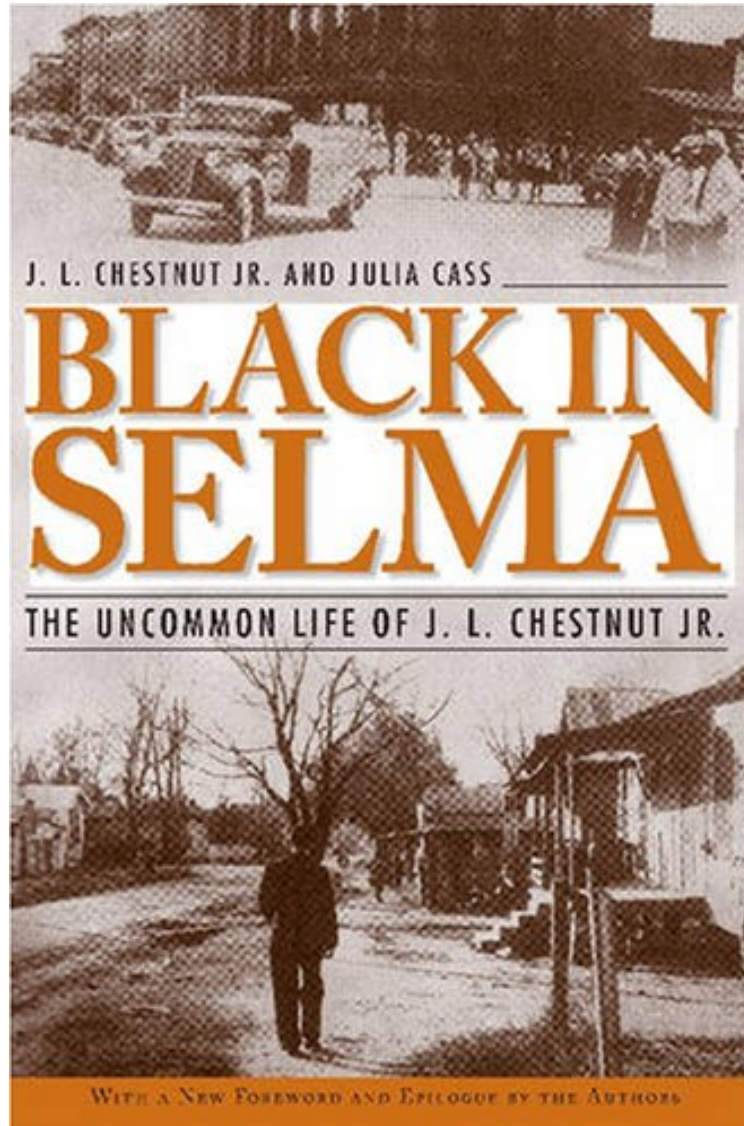


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Black in Selma: The Uncommon Life of J.L. Chestnut Jr. (Fire Ant Books)

J. L. Chestnut Jr, Julia Cass
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J. L. Chestnut Jr, Julia Cass : Black in Selma: The Uncommon Life of J.L. Chestnut Jr. (Fire Ant Books)

before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Black in Selma: The Uncommon Life of J.L. Chestnut Jr. (Fire Ant Books):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Powerful and personal insightsBy RU - TechJ. L. Chestnut, Jr. takes you into one mans incredibly personal life as a warrior for the rights of Black Americans in the South. It is sometimes

funny, often tragic but always enlightening as he takes you through his life. As someone who is studying the Civil Rights Movement I consider this a must read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Black in Selma book review By H. Guidugli This is a wonderful book detailing the experiences of an individual that contributed to the transformation of our nation during the civil rights era. It is a must read by anyone interested in U.S. history, history of the south or just what it's like growing up in a small Southern town. A great book and I recommend it to anyone regardless of age or race. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Ella Kennickell Amazing on the ground view of everyday resistance.

Black in Selma is the expansive autobiography of J. L. Chestnut Jr., a key figure of the civil rights movement in Selma, Alabama. Born in Selma in 1930, Chestnut left home to study law at Howard University in Washington, DC. Returning to Selma, Chestnut was the town's first and only African American attorney in the late 1950s. As the turbulent struggle for civil rights spread across the South, Chestnut became an active and assiduous promoter of social and legal equality in his hometown. A key player on the local and state fronts, Chestnut accrued deep insights into the racial tensions in his community and deftly opened paths toward a more equitable future. Though intimately involved in many events that took place in Selma, Chestnut was nevertheless often identified in history books as simply a local attorney. Black in Selma reveals his powerful yet little-known story. In the 2014 film Selma, director Ava DuVernay takes audiences to the climactic confrontation between civil rights advocates and the state's security forces of March 1965. Readers looking for a deeper understanding of the events that preceded that epic moment, as well as how racial integration unfolded in Selma in the decades that followed, will find Chestnut's story and memories both a vital primary source and an inspiration.

.com The infamous 1965 "Bloody Sunday" civil rights march in Selma, Alabama, led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., put that sleepy segregated town into the national spotlight. An important, though lesser-known, figure in those events was J.L. Chestnut--a fiery, hometown, Howard University-trained lawyer who through intelligence, force of will, and (in many cases) luck managed to change the town's laws and attitudes. Black in Selma, his unpretentious autobiography cowritten by Philadelphia Inquirer reporter Julia Cass, recalls Chestnut's lifelong battles with the brutal segregation enforced by whites, as well as underachievement, classism, miseducation, and Afro-pessimism among local blacks. Throughout the book, Chestnut reveals in ribald and revolutionary tones the complexities and contradictions of simultaneously working with the law and outside it, including a riveting moment alongside future congressman John Lewis as they stood eyeball-to-eyeball with a local sheriff who blocked their entry into a court building. His encounters with activist organizations such as the NAACP, SCLC, and SNCC further illuminate the philosophical intersections and collisions between various factions of the civil rights movement. Overall, J.L. Chestnut's story is about how a people accustomed to injustice grew to fight for freedom with their lives. "After centuries of ducking and dodging," he writes, "black people have come out of the closet--and they liked the air." -- Eugene Holley Jr. From Publishers Weekly As Selma, Ala.'s first black lawyer, Chestnut has been vitally involved in historic civil rights struggles. He participated in the march which culminated in the signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, tried cases for the NAACP, organized the registration of black voters and pursued grassroots activism. This dramatic, outspoken yet modest autobiography, written with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Cass, is a magnificent testament to what courage, strategy and persistence can accomplish. The book includes candid portrayals of Martin Luther King Jr. ("one hell of a field general"), Stokely Carmichael ("heartthrob African prince"), Adam Clayton Powell, George Wallace, Thurgood Marshall, Jesse Jackson and others. Photos. 50,000 first printing; \$50,000 ad/promo; author tour. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal This is quite simply one of the best Civil Rights autobiographies yet to appear. Coauthored with Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Cass, Black in Selma tells the story of black lawyer/activist Chestnut on three basic levels. It is a classic American success story, as a determined black youth overcomes discrimination to become one of Alabama's most successful lawyers. It is a story of local, grass-roots Civil Rights activities rather than "big" national figures like Martin Luther King Jr. Finally, unlike most such accounts, it deals as much with the complex and difficult implementation of social change as it does understanding of recent U.S. history. Highly recommended for all libraries. --Anthony O. Edmonds, Ball State Univ., Muncie, Ind. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.