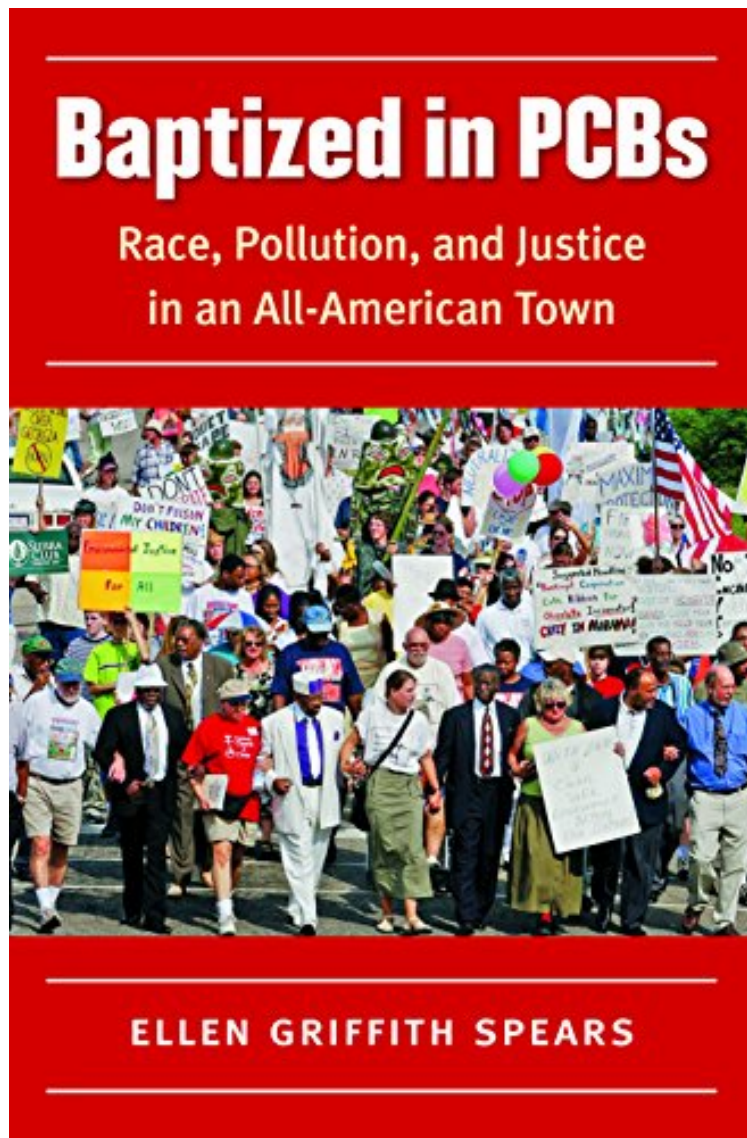


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Baptized in PCBs: Race, Pollution, and Justice in an All-American Town (New Directions in Southern Studies)

Ellen Griffith Spears

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Ellen Griffith Spears : Baptized in PCBs: Race, Pollution, and Justice in an All-American Town (New Directions in Southern Studies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Baptized in PCBs: Race, Pollution, and Justice in an All-American Town (New Directions in Southern

Studies):

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Paradigm of toxic chemicals, corporate greed, and race
InnoSapienDr, Spears' meticulous research and insights exposes the inner workings of Monsanto's chicanery and greed, the ARMY's madness and where race and color defined the most unimaginable toxic town in America. It is the story of PCB production, a highly toxic chemical, by Monsanto in Anniston in which the wastes were indiscriminately spread throughout the next door neighborhoods over decades; then when the plant was shut down, the facts and fate of the PCBs were hidden from the residents. This story mixed with the chemical agents produced by the ARMY near Anniston in a town with a history of racial issues makes for compelling reading. She documents the environmental crimes which conclude in a series of trials that reveal the sordid facts of Monsanto's behavior and the aftermath leaving the citizens of Anniston in a frightening unsettled state knowing that they are the recipients of PCBs that remain in their bodies and blood with the latent potential to destroy their health and lives at any time.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent writer and very
By duchy4uI am an exposed person from this area of Ft McClellan however the military or congress will not recognize the exposure that is talked about in this book. Excellent writer and very truthful
0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Astounding and impressive documentation of a landmark case in industrial pollution
By John R. WashingtonI was amazed at the historical facts presented in this extremely well researched book. Monsanto's legacy will always be defined by this almost unbelievable tale. The documentation was so extensive that I found myself skipping portions and instead pondering on the limits of human cruelty towards their own, which ranks up there with the Nazis and tribal genocide in Africa.

In the mid-1990s, residents of Anniston, Alabama, began a legal fight against the agrochemical company Monsanto over the dumping of PCBs in the city's historically African American and white working-class west side. Simultaneously, Anniston environmentalists sought to safely eliminate chemical weaponry that had been secretly stockpiled near the city during the Cold War. In this probing work, Ellen Griffith Spears offers a compelling narrative of Anniston's battles for environmental justice, exposing how systemic racial and class inequalities reinforced during the Jim Crow era played out in these intense contemporary social movements. Spears focuses attention on key figures who shaped Anniston--from Monsanto's founders, to white and African American activists, to the ordinary Anniston residents whose lives and health were deeply affected by the town's military-industrial history and the legacy of racism. Situating the personal struggles and triumphs of Anniston residents within a larger national story of regulatory regimes and legal strategies that have affected toxic towns across America, Spears unflinchingly explores the causes and implications of environmental inequalities, showing how civil rights movement activism undergirded Anniston's campaigns for redemption and justice.

Spears constructs a thoughtful and nuanced narrative that supports a call for reform in the manufacture, use, and regulation of the chemical industry and military-industrial complex.--H-Net sExquisitely fulfills sensory history's potential, advancing concern for the health of natural systems while expressing deep commitment to exposing the historical roots of racial and economic inequality.--Labour/Le TravailA tale of civic redemption.--Anniston StarA significant and richly detailed study of environmental justice.--Journal of American HistorySpears' writing is clear and interesting, and she explains the complexities of chemical bonds with the same eloquence that she describes the events that took place in Anniston when Freedom Riders rode through the town in 1961. . . . An excellent addition to the fields of environmental, southern, and Alabama history.--The Alabama A well-written and well-documented account of the importance of environmental justice.--ChoiceMakes a powerful case for considering health and environmental activism as integral components of the long civil rights movement. . . . Scholars will be metabolizing Spears's observations for years to come.--The Journal of Southern History Baptized in PCBs is a richly textured history of Anniston, Alabama, and the movements of chemicals, capital, and people over a century that transformed it into one of the most toxic towns in the U.S. Spears offers a compelling and compassionate account of the South's hope for the chemical industry in the wake of Reconstruction and the environmental and racial inequalities that accrued over time. It is a telling tale of toxic secrets and legal challenges and the heartbreaks and triumphs that are familiar to toxic towns across America seeking redemption and justice.--Gregg Mitman, author of Breathing Space: How Allergies Shape Our Lives and LandscapesThis is an excellent book--well written, exhaustively researched, original, and brilliantly conceived. Anyone interested in the history of the South, business history, civil rights, and environmental justice will find this essential reading. But more than that, this is a great story--at turns inspiring, maddening, depressing, and instructive. Everyone knows about Love Canal, Times Beach, Missouri, and Three Mile Island. Hopefully, after this book is published, everyone will know about Anniston as well!--Gerald Markowitz, John Jay College and Graduate Center, City University of New YorkAn important study in the ongoing effort to document and understand the huge legacy of environmental racism in our past. Hopefully this story will help spur us to fight against the ongoing scourge of environmental injustice in frontline communities.--Bill McKibben, author of Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable FutureAbout the AuthorEllen Griffith Spears is associate professor in New College and

the Department of American Studies at the University of Alabama.