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Belle, the Last Mule at Gees Bend: A Civil Rights Story

By Calvin Alexander Ramsey

Candlewick Press (MA). Hardcover. Book Condition: New. John Holyfield (illustrator). Hardcover. 32 pages. Dimensions: 10.4in. x 10.1in. x 0.6in. A true story inspires the moving tale of a mule that played a key role in the civil rights movement-- and a young boy who sees history anew. Sitting on a bench waiting for his mother, Alex spies a mule chomping on greens in someones garden, and he cant help but ask about it. Ol Belle says Miz Pettway next to him. She can have all the collards she wants. Shes earned it. And so begins the tale of a simple mule in Gees Bend, Alabama, who played a singular part in the civil rights movement of the 1960s. When African-Americans in a poor community-- inspired by a visit from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. -- defied local authorities who were trying to stop them from registering to vote, many got around a long detour on mule-drawn wagons. Later, after Dr. Kings assassination, two mules from Gees Bend pulled the farm wagon bearing his casket through the streets of Atlanta. As Alex looks into the eyes of gentle Belle, he begins to understand a powerful time in history in a very personal...


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