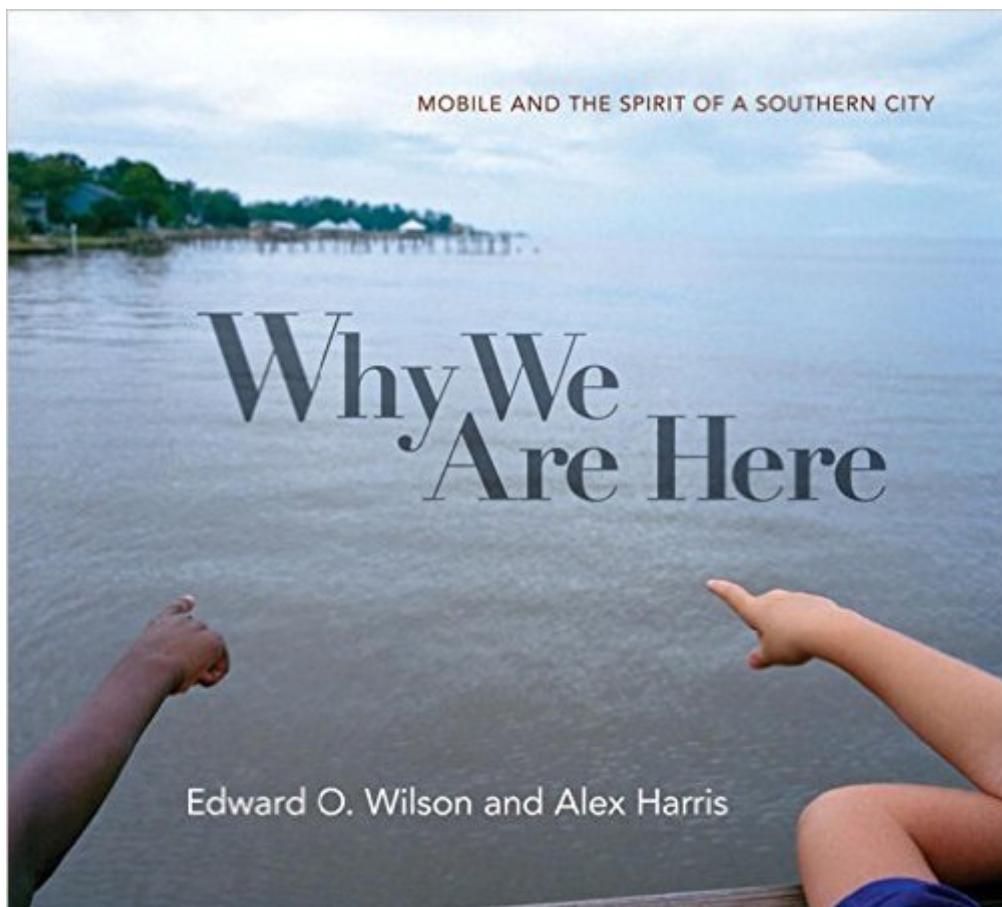


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# Why We Are Here: Mobile And The Spirit Of A Southern City



## Synopsis

From this historic collaboration between a beloved naturalist and a great American photographer emerges a South we've never encountered before. Entranced by Edward O. Wilson's mesmerizing evocation of his Southern childhood in *The Naturalist* and *Anthill*, Alex Harris approached the scientist about collaborating on a book about Wilson's native world of Mobile, Alabama. Perceiving that Mobile was a city small enough to be captured through a lens yet old enough to have experienced a full epic cycle of tragedy and rebirth, the photographer and the naturalist joined forces to capture the rhythms of this storied Alabama Gulf region through a swirling tango of lyrical words and breathtaking images. With Wilson tracing his family's history from the Civil War through the Depression - when mule-driven wagons still clogged the roads - to Mobile's racial and environmental struggles to its cultural triumphs today, and with Harris stunningly capturing the mood of a radically transformed city that has adapted to the twenty-first century, the book becomes a universal story, one that tells us where we all come from and why we are here. 115 color photographs; 3 maps

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is one our family will treasure. I gave it to my daughter for her main Christmas gift, but we will be borrowing it to read the text. My husband and I looked at the wonderful pictures, but when I have more time I want to read it. There were other nice gifts for my daughter, but this was the first go-to gift she opened. It was expensive in the local book store, but on line it was an amazing savings even with shipping, I got it \$15 less than the books store. If you are interested in Mobile, or

just in a classic Southern City, this is a book you need to have. I'd read about it in our local newspaper, so began to hunt it then. But I was positive I could beat the \$35 price tag at the book store. I highly recommend this book. It is well worth paying even the full price, but the site makes it even better. I always love getting a bargain, and this may have been the top one of the season.

Mobile gets some much- deserved attention in this well-written book. Packed with history and good food, the city is one of America's hidden treasures, and Mr. Wilson's obvious personal affection shows up in his fine writing. A gift!

Biologist and Alabama native Edward O. Wilson presents a wonderful accounting of the people and culture of the Alabama Gulf region. Packed with full-page, beautiful images by photographer Alex Harris, *Why We Are Here* explores the heart and soul of Mobile, from its diverse inhabitants to the intriguing plant and animal life. This book would make a great conversation starter as a coffee table book. You can't help but pick it up and flip through its pages. *Why We Are Here* is a wonderful book that I highly recommend! I received a copy of this book for free through Goodreads First Reads in exchange for an honest review.

E.O Wilson's eloquent words together with Alex Harris' particular, yet universal, images make for a splendid book. Mobile thanks you both!

My neighbor who has origins there finds the book beautiful and interesting as do I, of elsewhere.

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