

Suggested Questions for Discussion

1. Bragg's mother sacrificed a great deal for her sons. Is her devotion to her sons' welfare out of the ordinary?
2. Has Bragg ever forgiven his father? What is the significance of the gift of books by an illiterate father to his clever son?
3. While many African-Americans have given us their stories of growing up poor and black, the segment of society disparaged as "poor white trash" has produced relatively few writers. Does this book change your views of such people?
4. Why is Bragg particularly drawn to stories about "living and dying and the trembling membrane in between?"
5. What, if any, are the definitive class barriers in our society? Does having been born poor mean that a person will always feel inferior to those who weren't? Do financial or professional achievements raise a person's "class" level?
6. Why does Bragg address one of the final chapters of his book to his father? How accurate is he in saying to his father, "I am just like you?"

Additional questions can be found at www.evpl.org



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**ONE
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All Over but the
Shoutin'



Rick
Bragg

Find out what happens when all of
Southwestern Indiana Reads
All Over but the Shoutin'
by Rick Bragg



Reading and
Growing Together
in Southwestern
Indiana

About the Program

One Book/One Community is a grassroots reading program to develop a community built around the shared experience of people reading and talking about the same book. Bringing people together to discuss ideas in books can play an important role in breaking down barriers between people, cultures, and economic and educational backgrounds.

The Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library is joining with the Evansville Media, local schools and universities, bookstores, and businesses to promote a culture of reading in the Evansville community.

What can I do after I've read the book?

- Join a book discussion group.
- Use “Suggested Questions for Discussion” in the back of this booklet.
- Participate in a local high school or university class.
- Listen to special “One Book/One Community” programming on WNIN FM 88.3.
- Share it with others.
- Attend special author events on Thursday, October 2.

How can you participate?

Participation is free and open to the public – everyone is encouraged to join. You can call or stop by any Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library to borrow a copy of *All Over but the Shoutin'*. Or you can purchase the book at 20% off list price at participating bookstores.

By registering for One Book/One Community, you'll receive program updates via email. You can register on the web at www.evpl.org (click on “What’s New”).

Participating Libraries and Book Discussion Dates:

Central	22 SE Fifth St. Sept. 28 – 2:00 pm
East	840 E. Chandler Ave. Sept. 16 – 6:30 pm
McCollough	5115 Washington Ave. Sept. 24 – 3:00 pm
North Park	750 North Park Dr. Sept. 2 – 6:30 pm
Oaklyn	3001 Oaklyn Dr. Sept. 22 – 6:30 pm
Red Bank	120 S. Red Bank Rd. Sept. 17 – 3:00 pm
Stringtown	2100 Stringtown Rd. Sept. 23 – 6:30 pm
West	2000 W. Franklin St. Sept. 9 – 6:30 pm

Check other area libraries & book stores for dates.

About *All Over but the Shoutin'*

Rick Bragg was born in the pinewoods of Alabama to a mean-tempered, hard-drinking father and a strong-willed, loving mother, who struggled to protect her sons from the effects of poverty and ignorance that had constricted her own life.

After years of abusing his wife and children, Bragg's father abandoned the family when Rick was six. Margaret Bragg moved her three sons into her parents' house, going eighteen years without a new dress so that her children could have school clothes and working in the cotton fields so that they wouldn't have to live on welfare alone.

Brash and wild like his father, Rick graduated from high school, seemingly destined for either the cotton mills or the penitentiary. Instead, he signed up for a journalism class at a nearby college and before long was offered a job as a sportswriter for the local paper. From there, he moved from small papers in northeast Alabama to *The St. Petersburg Times* and eventually became a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for *The New York Times*.

All Over but the Shoutin' is the moving account of one man's determination to rewrite his family history and to carve out a life for himself based on the strength of his mother's encouragement and belief. Written with refreshing honesty and marvelous humor, it paints an unforgettable picture of the love and suffering that lie at the heart of every family.

One Book/One Community Committee

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What The Critics Say:

“An absolutely wonderful book.”
Russell Baker

“Because I love the English language, I knew I was reading one of the best books I've ever read.”
Pat Conroy

“Bragg looks down the corridors of his past with love, hate, humor, regret, self-doubt, and understanding.”
Willie Morris

Join Us

Rick Bragg will come to Evansville to discuss his book, *All Over but the Shoutin'*, answer questions, and autograph books on:

Thursday, October 2
7:30 PM
Victory Theatre
Admission is free and open to the public.