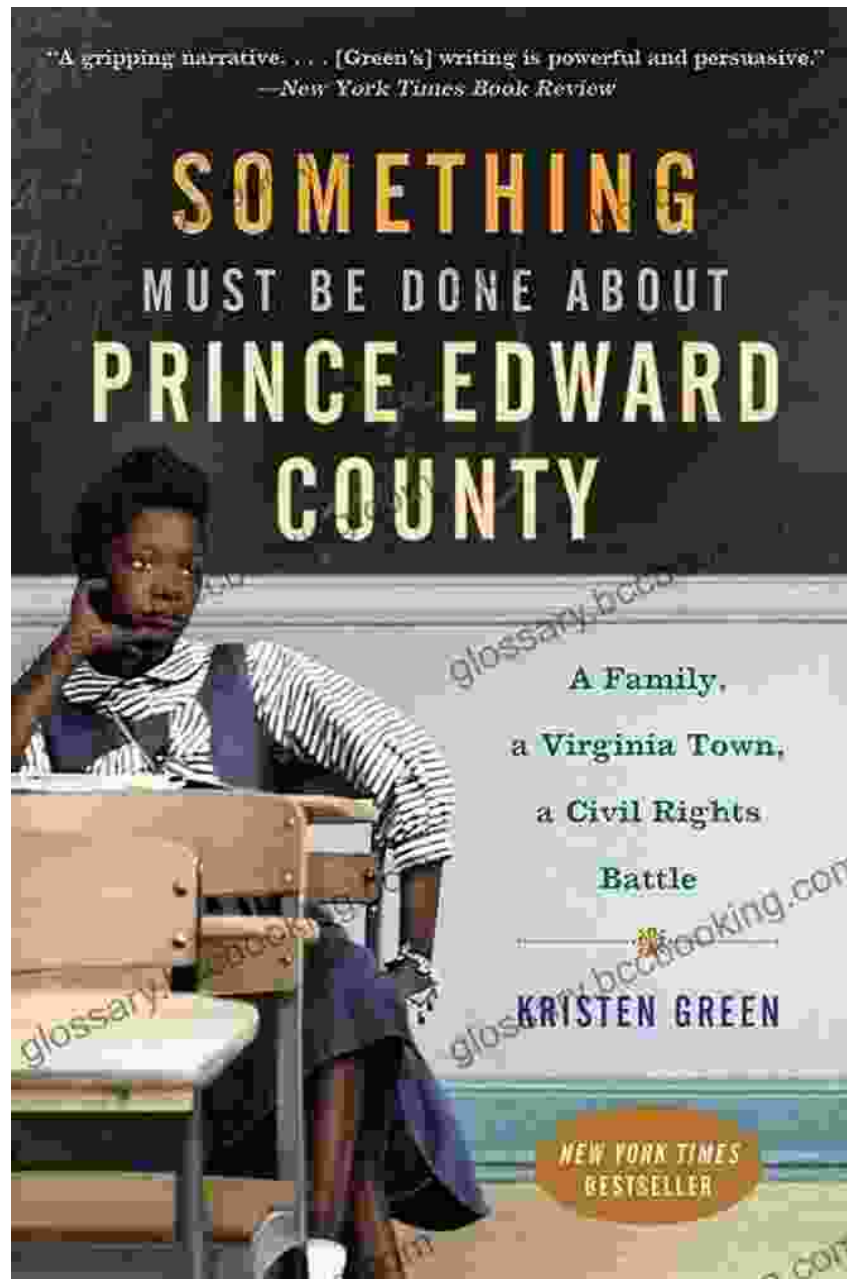


# Something Must Be Done About Prince Edward County: Uncovering the Troubled Past and Inspiring Resistance



In the heart of Virginia, a compelling story of resilience and defiance unfolds in "Something Must Be Done About Prince Edward County." This

book delves into the troubled past of a rural county where racial segregation and injustice cast a long shadow.



## Something Must Be Done About Prince Edward County: A Family, a Virginia Town, a Civil Rights Battle

by Kristen Green

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 3390 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
X-Ray : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 349 pages



### A Legacy of Segregation and Exclusion

Prince Edward County, once a thriving farming community, became a battleground in the fight for civil rights. In 1951, the county's school board defied the Supreme Court's ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* and refused to integrate its schools.

The community was torn apart. African American students were denied access to quality education, while white students attended all-white schools. This blatant disregard for equal rights ignited a fierce resistance.



## **A Community's Determined Resistance**

Led by a group of courageous students known as the Prince Edward County Training School Strike Committee, the community organized a nonviolent protest. Barbara Johns, a 16-year-old student, emerged as a powerful voice. Together, they demanded equal educational opportunities.

Despite relentless harassment and threats from the authorities, the students' resolve remained unwavering. They boycotted segregated schools and held sit-ins at public facilities. Their determination inspired support from civil rights leaders across the country.



## **The Massive Resistance Campaign**

In response to the student protests, Virginia implemented a policy of "Massive Resistance." The state government closed schools rather than integrate them. This resulted in a five-year period where children in Prince Edward County were denied any public education.

However, the community refused to be defeated. Parents and educators established makeshift schools in churches and private homes. They were determined to provide their children with the education they deserved.



### **Thomas J. Mapps: A Pivotal Figure in the Struggle**

Thomas J. Mapps, a local black journalist and activist, played a crucial role in documenting the events in Prince Edward County. His fearless reporting and advocacy exposed the injustices and inspired the nation.

Through his newspaper, the *Progress-Index*, Mapps provided a platform for the voices of those who were silenced. He also organized community meetings and rallies, galvanizing the movement.



## **Legacy and Impact**

After years of struggle, the schools in Prince Edward County were finally integrated in 1964. The community's resilience and defiance became a beacon of hope in the fight for civil rights.

"Something Must Be Done About Prince Edward County" serves as a poignant reminder of the horrors of segregation and the power of

resistance. It challenges us to confront the legacy of racism and work towards building a more just and equitable society.

The book is a tribute to the courageous individuals who stood up against injustice in Prince Edward County. Their story continues to inspire generations to fight for equal rights and a better future.

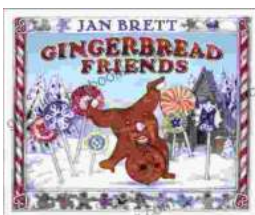


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