

**The entire range of emotions**

By Ketan Patel, November, 2011

“Remember Who You Are” is the story of a very successful woman who attributes her success to her upbringing and the experiences she had as a child growing up in the 60’s in Craig’s Ridge, Arkansas. We first meet Jodie Davis as she prepares to come before a Senate Judiciary Committee in 1998; she has been nominated by the President of the United States to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States.

As the Judiciary Committee begins asking their questions Judge Davis flashes back to her childhood after each question is asked. Jodie’s flashbacks provide the reader with the reasoning behind Jodie’s answers to the Committee’s questions.

As I began reading this book I didn’t really understand the direction the author was taking but the writing style was good and the book was easy to follow so I continued reading. As I read further and further I understood that this book centers on the changing environment around us and how this WILL affect each and every one of us; how we embrace these changes is the important lesson.

As Judge Jodie remembers who she is we are transported to Arkansas at a time when racial tensions were at an all time high due to the end of segregation and the beginning of integration. The god fearing white community of Craig’s Ridge were sure that the government’s attempts at integration would fail and that things would go back to normal. But the young children of the community didn’t understand what all the fuss was about, the black children didn’t seem any different than the white children and they were fun to play with!

As Jodie remembers her childhood we meet all of the people that influenced her life one way or another: Bobby Davis her father who drank too much and was a racist, JR a brave black man who saved her life when a tornado ripped her from her home, Knox who has returned from Vietnam a shell of the man he once was (no one could understand his behavior, back then PTSD was unheard of), Colin a football player who befriends his black team mate Max with explosive consequences, Judge Mulligan and a defense attorney who are part of the KKK, and Tucker Anderson who seemed to be the cause of all the trouble in the neighborhood.

As the story unfolds the reader is captivated by the unfolding events. I went through the entire range of emotions as I read this book from anger to sadness to compassion and by the end I was a little bit surprised that I even felt compassion for Tucker Anderson who was the biggest racist and instigator of trouble. The book truly is a testament to the title: “Remember Who You Are”.

If you enjoyed “Remember the Titans” you will enjoy this book as well.