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Nuremberg, Mississippi

by Melvin E. Edwards

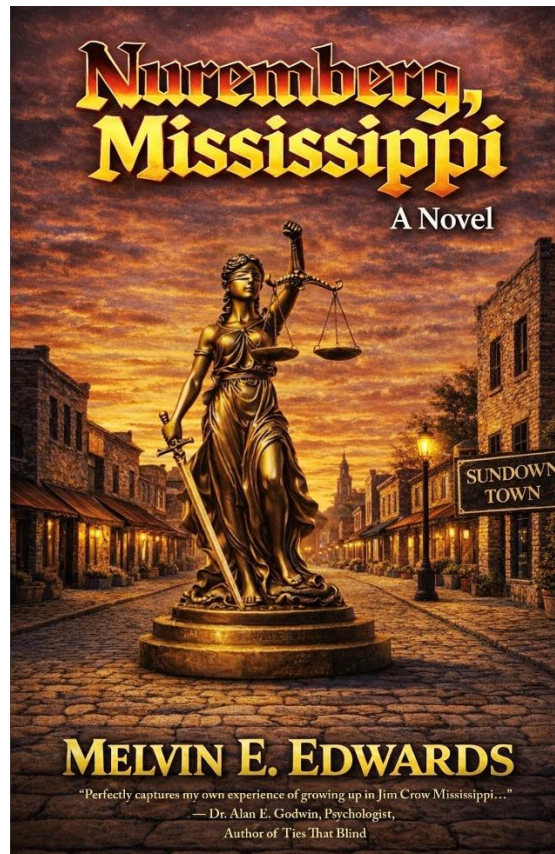
A Novel of Justice, Silence, and American Reckoning

Publisher
Media Well Done, LLC

Publication Date
May 2026

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Book Overview

Title	Nuremberg, Mississippi
Author	Melvin E. Edwards
Genre	Literary Fiction / Legal Drama / Historical Fiction
Publisher	Media Well Done, LLC
Publication	May 2026 (First Edition)
Format	Hardcover Paperback eBook
ISBN (Hardcover)	978-1-80764-269-3
ISBN (Paperback)	978-1-80764-268-6
ISBN (eBook)	978-1-80764-267-9
Setting	Greenville, Mississippi (fictional) — mid-20th century
Themes	Justice, institutional racism, moral complicity, law vs. conscience

Synopsis

In Greenville, Mississippi — a fictional sundown town in Myrtle County where the courthouse stands at the center of the square like a monument to its own authority — the law does not announce whom it serves. It makes space for some and withholds it from others.

Nuremberg, Mississippi follows Silas Thomas Thorn III, a man who inherits both a prominent family name and the impossible burden of navigating a legal and social system designed to exhaust those it is supposed to serve. When a wrong is committed and the machinery of justice is set into motion, the novel asks not whether the law will be broken — but whether it will function as designed, and what that design reveals.

Unfolding in forty-two short, precise chapters across six parts — The Rules, Visibility, Escalation, Endurance, Judgment, and Aftermath — the novel traces how harm is delivered not through dramatic acts of hatred, but through routine: filings, continuances, procedural silences, and the disciplined patience of those who benefit from the status quo.

Drawing on the precedent set at Nuremberg — that legality does not excuse atrocity — the novel asks what happens when a society learns to call injustice “order,” and trains ordinary people to keep it running as routine. Inspired by Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s insight that moral failure often disguises itself as professionalism and obedience, and by Hannah Arendt’s concept of the banality of evil, Nuremberg, Mississippi is a legal drama that is also a meditation on conscience, inheritance, and what it costs to remain human.

“A deeply original examination of justice in America.”

— **Sarah Bird, Acclaimed Novelist, Author of *Daughter of a Daughter of a Queen***

“Nuremberg, Mississippi perfectly captures my own experience of growing up in Jim Crow Mississippi, where Nazi evils shocked us from afar while our own racial evils were so woven into our day-to-day existence that we hardly noticed. I highly recommend this eye-opening novel.”

— **Dr. Alan E. Godwin, Psychologist, Author of *Ties That Bind***

Key Themes & Talking Points

The Banality of Institutional Evil

Nuremberg, Mississippi does not traffic in villains with pointed hoods or explicit malice. Its antagonist is the system itself — the routine, the procedure, the filing. Edwards examines how injustice becomes sustainable when it is distributed across institutions and job descriptions.

Law as Shield, Not Safeguard

Drawing directly on the Nuremberg tribunal's central principle — that legality does not excuse atrocity — the novel asks what happens when the mechanisms designed to protect people are turned against them by those who operate them as a matter of professional conduct.

Structure as Subject

The novel's forty-two intentionally brief chapters mirror the experience of navigating a system designed to overwhelm: each step appears manageable in isolation. The structure is not a stylistic choice — it is an argument.

Southern History, American Reckoning

Set in a fictional Mississippi county town, the novel draws on Edwards's own roots — family names reaching from Virginia to Texas, a childhood in the South, a journalism education in a former sundown town in Arkansas. The history is imaginary. The patterns are not.

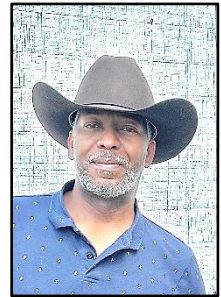
Faith, Conscience, and Moral Courage

Bonhoeffer's shadow falls across every page: the novel asks whether it is possible to see clearly, to name what is happening, and to refuse compliance — and what that refusal costs.

Meet the Author

Melvin E. Edwards

Melvin E. Edwards is an author, journalist, and podcaster whose work examines storytelling as a force of inheritance, conscience, and moral responsibility in American life. Raised in Texas with family roots deep enough to earn him membership as one of the first African Americans in the Sons of the Republic of Texas, Edwards draws on Southern history and institutional tradition to explore how injustice often endures through lawful procedure and measured restraint — not violence.



He is the creator and host of the award-winning podcast *Stories from Real Life*, named 2026 Male Podcast Host of the Year by the American Writing Awards, with more than 200 episodes of narrative journalism and conversation examining overlooked histories and compelling personal accounts.

Edwards is the award-winning author of *The Eyes of Texans* and *The Strength of a Thousand Sons*. *Nuremberg, Mississippi* is his debut novel, blending legal drama and literary fiction to examine the space between legality and justice. A former newspaper columnist, he has received more than twenty writing honors and additional awards for his published books.

He studied journalism at John Brown University — in a former sundown town in Arkansas. Edwards lives in Texas, where history remains open and unfinished.

Short Bio (for event programs and social media)

*Melvin E. Edwards is an author, journalist, and podcaster based in Texas. His debut novel, *Nuremberg, Mississippi* (Media Well Done, LLC, 2026), is a work of literary fiction examining law, conscience, and institutional harm in the mid-20th-century American South. He is the creator of the podcast *Stories from Real Life*, the 2026 Male Podcast Host of the Year (American Writing Awards), and the author of *The Eyes of Texans* and *The Strength of a Thousand Sons*. He has received more than twenty writing honors.*

One-Line Bio

*Melvin E. Edwards is an award-winning author, journalist, and podcast host whose debut novel *Nuremberg, Mississippi* examines how injustice endures through lawful procedure in the mid-20th-century American South.*

Previous Works

Title	Description
<i>The Eyes of Texans</i>	Award-winning nonfiction examining Texas history, identity, and the stories carried across generations in the American South.
<i>The Strength of a Thousand Sons</i>	Award-winning work exploring inheritance, identity, and the moral weight of history passed from father to son.
<i>Stories from Real Life (Podcast)</i>	Flagship podcast with 200+ episodes of narrative journalism. Named 2026 Male Podcast Host of the Year, American Writing Awards.

Praise for Nuremberg, Mississippi

“A deeply original examination of justice in America.”

— Sarah Bird — Acclaimed Novelist, Author of *Daughter of a Queen*

“Nuremberg, Mississippi perfectly captures my own experience of growing up in Jim Crow Mississippi, where Nazi evils shocked us from afar while our own racial evils were so woven into our day-to-day existence that we hardly noticed. I highly recommend this eye-opening novel.”

— Dr. Alan E. Godwin — Psychologist, Author of *Ties That Blind*

“A compelling look at a horrific time, where an almost-unbeatable opponent avoids the light that tries to reveal it. Fast pacing, palpable tension, hard-hitting dialogue, and an evocative setting make Nuremberg, Mississippi a must-read.”

— Clark Moore — Writer/Editor

“Melvin E. Edwards writes with precision, grace, and a refreshing respect for the power of story to reveal truths we might otherwise miss. Taking his gift for hard questions from podcasting to the page, Edwards asks who we are and where we stand as a country, with keen understanding of history, consequence, and moral nuance. This book about our shared history rejects the comfort of easy assumptions and nudges us to ask what is lost when justice is treated as optional rather than essential.”

— Piper Hendricks — CEO, *Stories Change Power*

Interview Questions

On the Novel

- The title invokes the Nuremberg trials. What is the connection between post-WWII international justice and mid-century Mississippi?
- The chapters are strikingly brief — some just a few pages. Was this a structural choice made before or after writing the story?
- The novel's antagonist seems to be the system rather than any individual character. How do you create dramatic tension without a human villain?
- Hannah Arendt, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Martin Luther King Jr. all shadow this novel. How did their thinking shape the story?
- Some character surnames come from your own family history. What was it like writing your ancestors into a story about injustice?

On History & Relevance

- The novel is set in the mid-20th century but readers will recognize contemporary patterns. Is the book intended as historical fiction or contemporary commentary?
- What do sundown towns reveal about the relationship between law and custom — things enforced not by statute but by expectation?
- The publisher's disclaimer notes the novel "examines patterns of conduct documented historically across multiple jurisdictions." What research grounded the legal and procedural details?

On the Author's Journey

- You are a podcaster, journalist, and now a novelist. How does fiction allow you to ask questions that journalism or podcasting cannot?
- You studied journalism in a former sundown town in Arkansas. How did that environment shape your understanding of the material in this book?
- Your wife is thanked for "indulging your prolonged bouts with whatever the opposite of writer's block is." What does your writing process actually look like?
- What do you hope readers — particularly white readers, or readers who have not experienced institutional racism firsthand — carry with them after finishing the book?

Events & Booking

Melvin E. Edwards is available for a range of appearances in support of Nuremberg, Mississippi, including the following:

- Bookstore readings and signings
- Library talks and community conversations
- Podcast and radio interviews
- Book club visits (in-person and virtual)
- University lectures and panel discussions on law, history, and race
- Festival appearances and keynote addresses
- Print, television, and online media interviews

Contact & Ordering Information

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About Media Well Done, LLC

Media Well Done, LLC is an independent publishing imprint and storytelling company founded in Texas. The imprint publishes literary fiction and historically grounded nonfiction at the intersection of law, culture, race, and the human experience — stories built to last.

The imprint operates alongside the flagship podcast *Stories from Real Life*, named 2026 Best Male Hosted Podcast by the American Writing Awards, with more than 200 episodes of narrative journalism and conversation examining overlooked histories and compelling personal accounts.