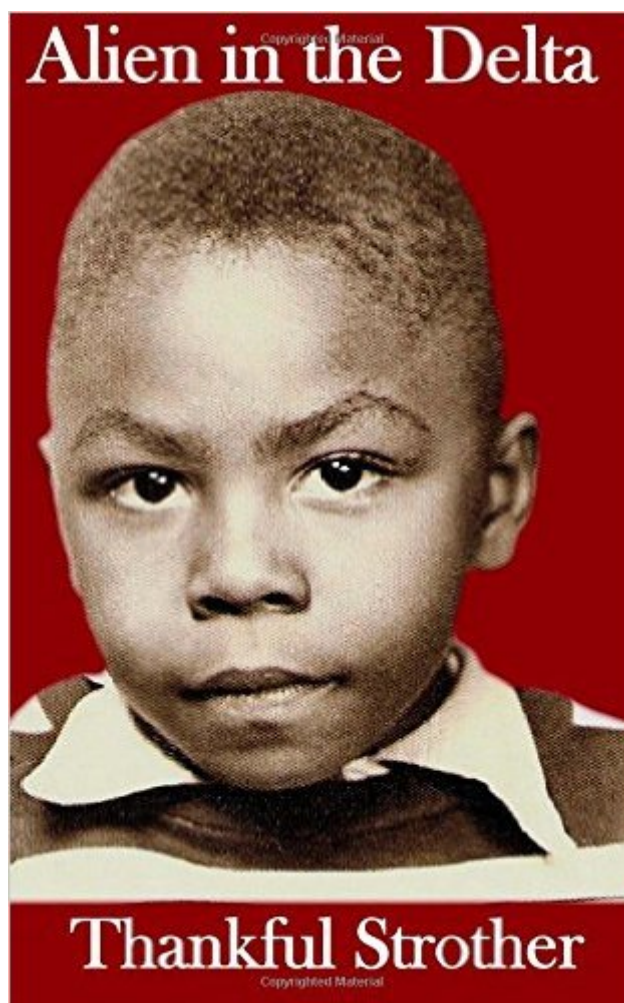


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# Alien In The Delta



## Synopsis

Grandfather shot the man as he opened the gate to the front yard. The man died on the spot. After killing the man, my grandfather went into hiding for seven years. This event was the legacy left to my father by his father. Would what happened thirty years before my birth have an impact on my life? *Alien in the Delta* takes you on a journey that highlights the life experiences of a boy from the age of six through manhood. He grew up on the Mississippi River in the Arkansas Delta, but felt out-of-place in that environment. In his home town prejudice and inequality were practice openly. His escape from the Delta was not realized until he went abroad. He takes you on his adventures in the rural south and throughout Europe. He shares with you a variety of emotions including fear, sadness, happiness, and amusement. *Alien in the Delta* is a memoir about overcoming adversity.

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An experience that stands out in my mind happened in a German restaurant. We were young men from the United States, living in Europe without a lot of exposure. Our knowledge of culture limited because we had not seen or done many things before coming to Germany. Bobby and I went to a German restaurant to eat dinner. We had gone there once before, and this time we brought our friend, Shorty with us. The hostess seated us and gave us the menus. While Shorty looked over the menu, Bobby and I had already decided what we wanted to order, so we placed our menus on the table. Noticing this, Shorty said that he would have whatever we were ordering. This restaurant was very upscale. Each table had a white tablecloth on it with a beautiful flower arrangement in the center. The settings consisted of plates, silverware, glasses, and white cloth napkins. When the waitress came to take our order, we all ordered the chicken dinner, just as before when Bobby and I had eaten there. Each dinner included a large piece of chicken, baked potato, salad, bread roll, and dessert. Except for the dessert, all the dinner items were serve to us at the same time. When we finished eating our dinner, our plates were removed. The waitress returned to our table carrying several small plates and bowls half filled with water with a lemon slice floating on top. She placed the small plates in front of us and set a bowl on each small plate. I asked Bobby if he wanted my lemon soup. He had enjoyed it so much the last time we were at the restaurant. Shorty began to laugh and said, "Let me get this straight. Are you telling me that Bobby ate the contents of that bowl the last time you were here?" I told Shorty that not only did he eat his soup, he also ate my serving. I described how Bobby took his bread and tore it into little pieces and placed them in the soup and used a spoon to finish eating his soup. At that point Shorty had started to convulse from laughing. We laughed along with Shorty, not knowing why he was laughing. When Shorty regained his composure, he told us that we were really ignorant country people. He explained that the bowls

were call finger bowls because they were use to dip your fingers into after eating chicken to remove the grease. Then the bowls would be removed, and our waitress would bring us dessert and place it on the small plates. Well, we did not know anything about finger bowls in Arkansas and Mississippi, where Bobby and I came from. We continued laughing after finding out that Bobby had eaten finger bowl water, thinking it was soup. That was the last time we ate there. We were too embarrassed to return to that restaurant again.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Thankful Strother's story of his life experiences is moving and profound. He does a remarkable job of bringing the reader into his world. While reading his stories, I felt like I was in the room with him and he was sharing the details of all of his adventures in the south and in Europe with me. I felt every emotion as I read the book: the fear, the delight, the sorrow, the happiness, and disillusionment that he experienced in his life. Thankful Strother fought hardship and pain for many, many years and learned valuable lessons; all leading to a very meaningful life. His life story is fascinating, heartbreaking, entertaining and truly beautiful. It is a must-read for anyone looking for a book that will enrich their life. I grew up in the south in the 50s and 60s and I can vouch for the authenticity of Thankful Strother's depiction of how life was back then. I highly recommend his book.

This is a compelling story from a man who has lived a very interesting life. He could have used a collaborator, or at least an editor however. It suffers from choppy storytelling and grammatical issues, making it difficult to read at times.

Thankful Strother grew up on the Mississippi River and never felt at home there. This is a memoir about his adventures in becoming a man. After high school he wanted to join the air Force...that did not happen in his home town so he goes North to visit cousins and there he enlists in the Air Force and gets to Germany. His dream had been France but divine intervention got him to Germany where he had many experiences both positive e and negative in the military. He learn to speak German which was a plus for this young man; later he meets a German woman who becomes his wife. After the military he goes home to the U.S. and starts his adventures in jobs...that leads to a career and great success. I very much liked reading about this black man who made it big from lessons learned from his parents and hard dedicated work ethics. This was downloaded onto my Kindle from . Get yours there also and see how success is done.

This is a very interesting biography that I read in one long sitting. Thankful was born in August of 1943 in Arkansas. I was born in August of 1943 in Alabama. Thankful was born to a poor black family and I was born to a white well off family. One would think we would have little in common but he was raised by a black woman, his mother. I also was raised by a black woman. She took care of me from birth until I was nine when I was sent to a military boarding school. Her son was a couple of years older than me and he was my first hero. He stood between me and getting beat up or at least picked on. Her daughter was a year younger than me and I thought she was the most beautiful girl I knew. Thankful doesn't get into the racial tension very much until he gets older. I got into it fairly early since I was taught by my parents to respect others regardless of race and taught why that was true from my black mother. I was getting into fights with white kids on a regular basis which was why I had to go away to a boarding school. Thankful grows up to be a well respected and successful man and tells the reader about his life growing up, time in the military, marrying a pretty German girl and getting a job as a computer programmer with NEC. He becomes a successful salesman then moves on up in the ranks. Like I said at the beginning, I found this a very interesting book and recommend it to anyone interested in what it was like being a black kid in the 50's and a young black man in the military in the 60's. I found Thankful Strother to be a impressive man.

Thankful Strother has successfully documented his childhood story for his family; the stories of his struggles to find teenage love and acceptance amidst the racial and social prejudices in a tiny southern town during the 40s, 50s and early 60s. The book provides insight into Thankful of which his closest friends and acquaintances were not aware, for example, working at the newspaper for all

those years. The book is entertaining and nostalgic, a good read.

The author tells his life story through short clips of events throughout his life. For the first third of the book, I wasn't sure I'd continue reading. But, at some point, I was hooked, and enjoyed it to the end. It was an easy read (although it could use a copy editor's touch), and was told in an easy, personal way, without embellishment. Although born into poverty, in the U.S. South in 1943 as a Black male, his story was told without anger or complaint. Here's a man who made for himself and his family a good life, not by elbowing his way through or making aggressive moves, but by making some good long-term decisions along the way, taking the hard road when necessary, taking a few risks, and by consciously choosing a career where he could do what he enjoyed. This is not to say his life was easy, for it was most certainly not. An interesting, easy read -- and a memorable one.

A truly heartfelt story of a young man's journey of self-discovery and triumph. It made me laugh and at times it also made me sad. Overall it's a wonderful example of how hard work, determination and perseverance can lead to success and happiness in life. It made me "thankful" too.

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