

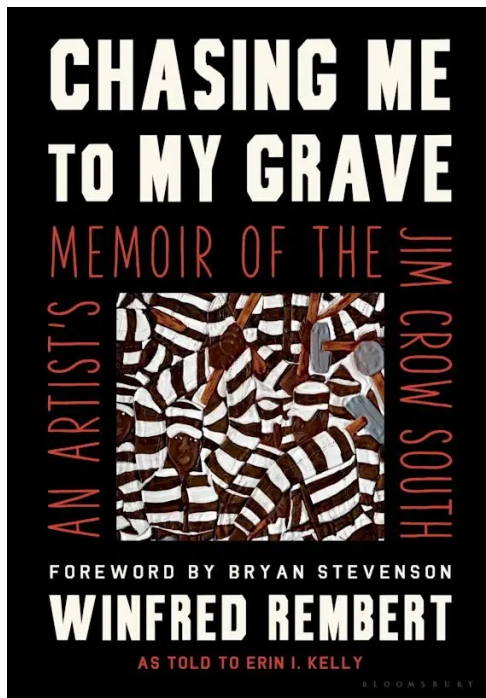
FORT GANSEVOORT

The New York Times

Pulitzer Prizes 2022: A Guide to the Winning Books and Finalists

'Chasing Me to My Grave: An Artist's Memoir of the Jim Crow South,' by Winfred Rembert, as told to Erin I. Kelly. (Bloomsbury)

May 9, 2022



Cover for *Chasing Me to My Grave* by Winfred Rembert, 2021 Courtesy Bloomsbury Publishing.

The artist Winfred Rembert didn't start drawing and painting seriously until he was in his 50s. In his memoir, which blends his life story with his artwork — vivid-hued paintings carved into leather — Rembert recounts scenes from his life in the Jim Crow-era Deep South. Rembert describes how he survived a near lynching in 1960s Georgia, when he was chased by a white mob after a Civil Rights demonstration that turned chaotic. He was later jailed for stealing a car, and spent seven years in prison, forced to work on chain gangs. Rembert died in the spring of 2021, shortly before the release of the memoir, which was a collaboration with Erin I. Kelly, a professor of philosophy at Tufts University. In the introduction, he described how he had wanted to tell his life story for decades, but didn't think there was an audience: "I was worried about whether people would believe me or care."