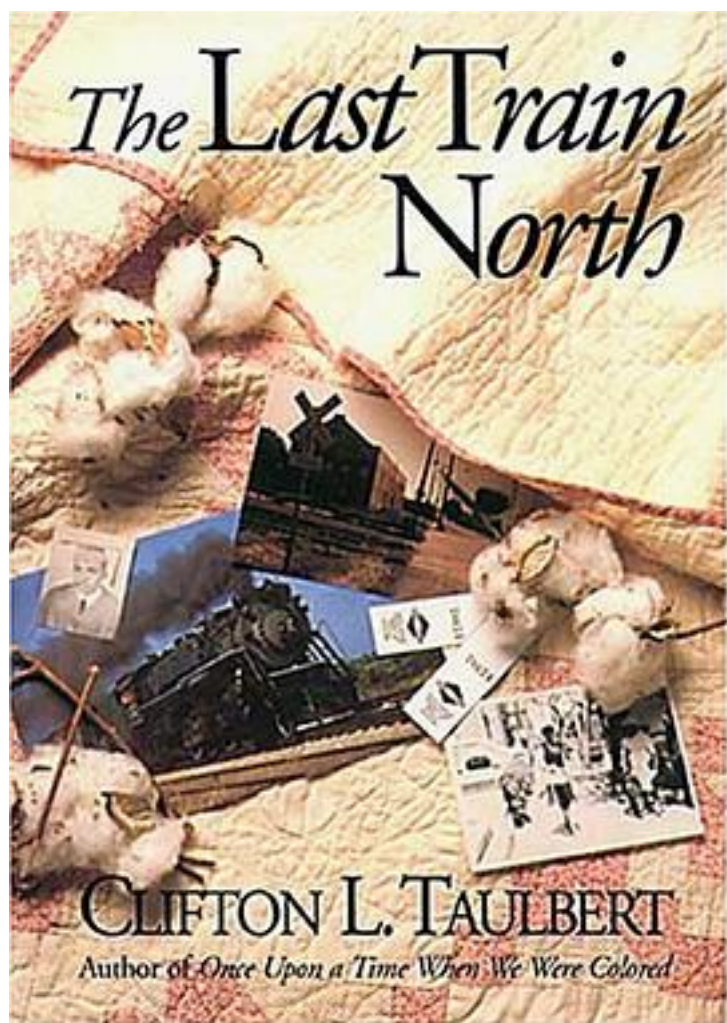


The Last Train North



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著者:Taulbert, Clifton L.

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From Publishers Weekly A sense of optimism infuses this winning illustrated memoir,

which begins as a black youth in the Mississippi Delta dreams of taking the train north to make his fortune. The trip and the station from which so many of his neighbors embark on the same odyssey take on mythic proportions, and Taulbert (*Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored*) makes the station's closing a metaphor for the disappearance of a romantic dream of the urban North. Although his narrative occasionally looks back to his childhood, it lavishes the most descriptive care on the 1960s, when Taulbert heads north to settle in St. Louis, gets his first job and then goes further north still, to join the Air Force and serve on a base in Maine. So much gives pleasure here: the rich sense of time, place and gracious living in a southern black community; the loving descriptions of quilting bees, creamy sweet potato pies and beautiful guest rooms; the unforgettable portraits of kith and kin. The sweetness of this young man, so beloved by his family, comes across with a warmth that will endear him to readers as well. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Rendering his rites of passage as a rural, Southern, black man-child caught in social upheaval, Taulbert continues the autobiography begun in *Once upon a Time When We Were Colored* (LJ 7/89). In the same bittersweet tone, his cultural chronicle takes a 17-year-old from the Mississippi Delta in 1963 to St. Louis, where he dreams of a fully integrated environment and future. JFK's assassination, an escalating war in Vietnam, and unrest on America's campuses and streets fill Taulbert's changing world. But his writing focuses on self-identity and affirmation rooted in a network of family and friends in countryside and city; his memories flow with the steady strength and resilience of black kinship in an ageless community of alvalues and vision. Recommended as a complement to Dick Gregory's *Nigger* (1964) and Nicholas Lemann's *The Promised Land* (LJ 2/15/91).- Thomas J. Davis, Univ. at Buffalo, N.Y. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. See all Editorial Reviews

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