



The Best Photography Books of the Year

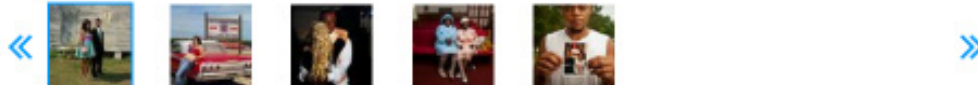
These photographers see things differently and invite you into unfamiliar worlds

By [Molly Roberts](#)

SMITHSONIAN.COM

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Southern Rites by Gillian Laub



Amber and Reggie, 2011. Amber: "Last year, when we had the first integrated prom, I couldn't go. I was in the hospital after a flare up from my sickle cell anemia. I was devastated that I missed out on history being made. Prom is everything around here in this small town." (Gillian Laub / Damiani)

Gillian Laub was surprised when she stumbled into a racially segregated prom in Georgia a little over a decade ago, but the legacy of racism in the Deep South goes far beyond that, she was soon to find. Laub's portraits of the people she met and the stories they told is an eye-opener for our "post-racial" society and the dimension this recounting brings to the conversation is nuanced and real.