



William Price Fox was born on April 9, 1926 in Waukegan, IL, but grew up in Columbia, SC. A high school dropout, Fox served in the U.S. Air Force from 1943-46 and moved up the ranks to lieutenant. After his service in World War II, he attended the University of South Carolina in Columbia, where he studied writing under Caroline Gordon and earned his bachelor's degree in 1950. After school, he moved to New York and worked as a packaging sales representative for eight years.

Fox got into writing in his thirties. One evening while drinking in the White Horse Tavern, Bill Manville, a friend of Fox's, decided he was too drunk to write his next column for the *Village Voice*. In a last-ditch effort to meet the imminent deadline, Manville asked Fox if he would write the column for him. Fox agreed and wrote a piece loosely based on his own journey to New York, which he entitled "Moncks Corner."

Fortunately for Fox, his article was well-received by Knox Burger, a literary agent and editor for Gold Medal Books, who urged Fox to write more stories. Hence, *Southern Fried* (1962), Fox's first collection of short stories, came into being. It contains humorous anecdotes revolving around southern culture and gained national recognition. About Fox's collection, Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. said "At last, a humorist who can make us laugh! What an idea! Bill Fox stands a good chance of capturing the laugh Americans used to give to Mark Twain in simpler times. He's brilliant." After the publication of *Southern Fried*, Fox went to Hollywood to write for the television show *The Beverly Hillbillies*; but eventually returned to South Carolina and, in 1976, became a writer-in-residence at the University of South Carolina in Columbia – a position he held until 2007.

While living in South Carolina, Fox wrote a number of books. *Dixiana Moon* (1981) features Joey Mahaffey, a New York salesman who is compelled by influences outside of his control to move south. In 1999, he wrote *South Carolina: Off the Beaten Path; A Guide to Unique Places*, which contains enthusiastic accounts of some of the most notable locations in what Fox considers to be his home state. In 2002, he wrote his semiautobiographical *Wild Blue Yonder*, which is set in 1940s South Carolina and follows Earl Edge, an underage high school dropout who lies about his age in order to join the Air Force.

William Price Fox married novelist Sarah Gilbert.

- Blake Bolen

2010 Inductee to the South Carolina Academy of Authors

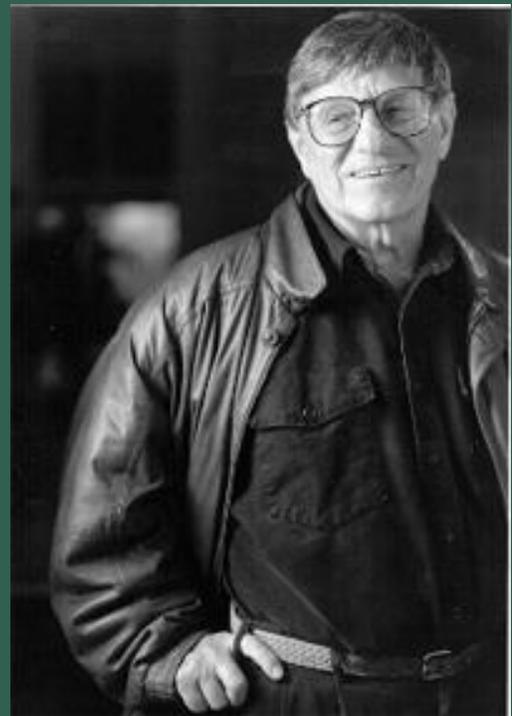


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