THE PRODIGAL DAUGHTER,
RECLAIMING UNFINISHED CHILDHOOD, 2008
Finalist, Connecticut Book Award in Non-fiction.

Returning us to a cold war world marked by divisions of race, gender, wealth, and class, *The Prodigal Daughter* is an exploration of "difference," the powerful wedge that separates individuals within a social milieu and within a family . . . Echoing the Biblical Prodigal Son, Margaret Gibson's memoir is less concerned with the years of excess away from home than with the seeds of division sown in this family's early years.   Hers is the story of a mother proud to be a Lady, a Southerner, and a Christian, of two daughters trapped by their mother's power, and of their father's breakdown under social and family expectations.

"This is a remarkable book . . . an intensely human story, written with great insight and awareness. Throughout, the author-to-be is both taking in and growing away from the powerful impress of the Richmond [Virginia} milieu. I marvel at how keenly she sees and understands. This is in some ways a devastating portrait, yet it is written without malice and even with gentleness. Nor is what she sees without relevance for other American communities, whether in the South or elsewhere." -- Louis D. Rubin, Jr.

"Margaret Gibson's evocation of urban southern society in the 1950's is so on target it's scary. This is a brilliant book." --
Shannon Ravanel

"With the fine line drawing of an acute novelist, Margaret Gibson has given us not only an enthralling memoir of family portraits but also a powerful evocation of history. The world of her story is in the genteel white South on the cusp of the great change of civil rights--a story too little told from this vantage point and with such unguarded candor. She tells it with integrity and heart, but always with fierce clarity. I laughed, I sighed, I was there. A remarkable achievement." --Patricia Hampl

"Margaret Gibson has plumbed silence and secrets, class and consciousness to produce this exquisite jewel of a memoir." --Lee Smith