

## Coming of Age in Montgomery, Alabama in 1968

*Southern author Leah Harper Bowron pens a “Wonder-like” story of resilience in the face of discrimination and bullying, set nearly 50 years ago in the wake of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Sen. Bobby Kennedy’s assassinations*

### Colorblind: A Novel by Leah Harper Bowron

The time was 1968. The place was Montgomery, Alabama. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Sen. Bobby Kennedy had been assassinated. War was raging in Vietnam. And war was raging on the playground of the all-white Wyatt Elementary School.

Schoolyard bullies teased sixth grader Lisa Parker because of the way her nose looked. Lisa would often develop a stomachache and go home from school to escape the bullies. Until sixth grade teacher Miss Annie Loomis came to Wyatt. Miss Loomis just happened to be the first African-American at Wyatt, and Lisa loved her English class. Now, when the bullies teased Lisa, she would stay in school so that she could be in Miss Loomis’ class. Yet something terrible happened that would change Lisa and Miss Loomis forever.

Racism reared its ugly head at Wyatt, and now Lisa was not the only victim of the bullies’ teasing. Would Miss Loomis endure the bullies’ racist taunts?

A scholar of James Joyce, and former lawyer from Birmingham, Alabama, author Leah Harper Bowron writes her debut young adult novel, *Colorblind*, a coming-of-age story of resilience in the face of discrimination and bullying.

Leah has lived her book *Colorblind* in so many ways. She was born with cleft palate and cleft lip, and found solace from schoolyard bullies in her sixth-grade English class, until her teacher started receiving racial taunts. A fictionalized version of Leah’s coming of age in Montgomery, *Colorblind* takes us back in time 50 years to address racism, physical challenges and bullying.



### BOOK DETAILS

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## News tie-ins & core messages

- Southern author Leah Harper Bowron's debut YA novel
- Racism: How teachers and students can stand up to discrimination in the classroom
- Physical challenges: A lesson for young adults in accepting yourself for who you are
- Bullying: A real-life lesson in overcoming the taunts of bullies
- Next year, 2018 marks 50 years since Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated

## About the Author

**Leah Harper Bowron** is a lawyer and James Joyce scholar from Birmingham, Alabama. She has studied at Randolph-Macon Women's College, University of Alabama and University of Edinburgh, and earned her J.D. at University of Alabama School of Law. Her article "Coming of Age in Alabama: Ex parte Devine Abolishes the Tender Years Presumption" was published in the *Alabama Law Review*. She recently lectured on Joyce's novel *Ulysses* at the University of London and the Universite de Reims. She lives near Houston, Texas and has a daughter named Sarah and a cat named Jamie.



Author Leah Harper Bowron

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