

## **FOREWORD**

*by James Baldwin*

*If we cannot reorganize our society on a more human and equitable basis, we will soon, as citizens, have lost any ability to reorganize it at all. This is why the Negro's struggle in America today is of the greatest importance for all Americans, whether they know it or not. Countless people, both white and black, are now undergoing the most brutal hardships in order to drive this fact deep into the public consciousness. Here is the testimony of one of them: and the moral of his story is that, however painful it may be for us to change, not to change will be fatal.*