

AGCT Host City - Fairhope in “My Favorite Place on Earth” book by *National Geographic*

Fairhope is one of the “favorite places on earth” featured in a new book from *National Geographic. My Favorite Place on Earth* by Jerry Camarillo Dunn, Jr., features stories by some of the world’s most famous people about the places they love the most. Alabama native and Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café author Fannie Flagg features Fairhope as her “favorite place on earth” in the book. Robin Williams, Morgan Freeman, Buzz Aldrin, the Dalai Lama, Donald Trump, and Jerry Seinfeld are among other celebrities who wrote stories on their favorite places for the book.

From the Fannie Flagg’s section of the book *My Favorite Place on Earth*:

When I was eight years old, my father and mother and I were driving down from Birmingham to Gulf Shores for a beach vacation. Around eight at night, we passed through a little town on the Mobile Bay. It was called Fairhope- a name that is still magical to me. I remember this one street, with a park overlooking the water. Spanish moss hung from the oak trees. Across the street were houses, and everybody had a lamp on their porch. Wisteria vines and azaleas were blooming. I felt like I was inside of a painting.

About 20 years ago, I bought a tiny place there, on the water. I go every year and spend the spring or fall. I sit on my porch and watch the pelicans fly by, and the blue herons, ducks, and swans. Fairhope is a sweet place, gracious without being saccharine. People are nice, and they make life easy. It sounds like a cliché, but nobody locks their doors. It was always very progressive with lots of artists and writers. Upton Sinclair lived there. Winston Groom, who wrote *Forrest Gump*- he’s my neighbor. So is Mark Childress, who wrote *Crazy in Alabama*. The first thing I ever wrote, I wrote in Fairhope. It sparks my imagination. I fall in love with places like I do with people, and I think I may be in love with Fairhope. I am just attached to it. When I’m lonesome, I think: Oh! I’ve got to go home. It’s a magical little town, and you feel a something special there that you don’t feel in other places.

Ordering information for *My Favorite Place on Earth* is available on the National Geographic website at <http://shop.nationalgeographic.com/product/1062/4862/114.html>