



MELODY GOLDING is a writer, photographer, and artist living in Vicksburg, Mississippi. The Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of American History Archives Center acquired her solo documentary exhibit *Katrina: Mississippi Women Remember*. Her photographs are on display in the Congressional Hearing Room at the Department of Homeland Security and have been featured in solo exhibitions at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C., and at numerous colleges, universities, and museums. Learn more about her work at www.melodygolding.com.

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Cloth, 978-1-57806-956-9



Howard Brent, owner of Panther Tract

University Press of Mississippi

www.upress.state.ms.us

EBOOK 978-1-60473-927-5 ISBN 978-1-60473-926-8



Printed in China

“Ever since that first group of cavemen took up their clubs to go hunt for food as a group, hunting has been a social affair.”

—from “*My Friend, Howard Brent*” by Sam Polles

“The hunting began with a flurry of excitement, dogs barking and running everywhere, riders and horses following. It was amazing to see the dogs work—they would flush out a hog from the brush, and encircle it, holding the hog until the riders arrived.”

—from “*My First Hog Hunt*” by Mary Hardwick

“Usually sporting a burned-out old cigar stub in the corner of his mouth, Uncle Pee Wee always had a dog for this and a dog for that—squirrel dogs, rabbit dogs, duck dogs, bird dogs, deer dogs, coon dogs, and, today, hog dogs.”

—from “*The Highbusters*” by Doc Merideth

“I have seen grown men crawl on their hands and knees, run to try to keep up with a pack of dogs, ride horses through undergrowth taller than their horses, strip down and swim ditches and bar pits, and forego meals and spousal responsibilities to participate in a hog hunt.”

—from “*Deer Hunting for Hogs*” by Joel Henderson

Golding

Panther Tract

Wild Boar Hunting in the Mississippi Delta

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Panther Tract

Wild Boar Hunting in the Mississippi Delta **MELODY GOLDING**

Introduction by Hank Burdine • With recipes from Chef John Folse



Panther Tract

Wild Boar Hunting in the Mississippi Delta

Hunting wild boar is a keenly held tradition in the Mississippi Delta. Fraught with danger, it challenges the hunter, observer, wildlife enthusiast, and landowner alike. *Panther Tract* is an insider's observance of extraordinary hunting, southern hospitality, camaraderie, and the love of dogs, horses, and hair-raising excitement. The 160 photographs are representative of a “day at the hunt,” starting at dawn and ending well after dark. The tales center on vivid hunting experiences, both at Panther Tract, a large wilderness paradise in Yazoo County, owned by legendary southern gentleman Howard Brent, and in other locations in the Mississippi Delta. The narratives come from men, women, doctors, lawyers, judges, businessmen, politicians, farmers, sharecroppers' sons, and even a Hollywood screenwriter.

Melody Golding's photographs focus on the Delta landscape and on the people and animals involved in the hunt. Portraits of the hunters, and their interactions with one another and their dogs and horses, fascinate. An award-winning photographer and an expert horsewoman, Golding brings a knowledgeable and critical eye to these images. The stories she collects range from traditional, often humorous hunting tales to more serious accounts of the history of hog hunting in America. Hank Burdine, a Mississippi native and hunter who has written for many statewide publications, lends a broad vision to the history, statistics, and lore of hunting wild hogs. An appendix features hunt recipes by Chef John Folse and philosophy on the stewardship of harvesting the hog. A colorful and diverse assemblage of beautiful photographs and tales, this book reveals a treasured regional tradition.