

(Mobile ebook) Fanny Kemble's Journals

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Fanny Kemble : Fanny Kemble's Journals before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fanny Kemble's Journals:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Fascinating Insight into SlaveryBy B. P. WalkerFanny Kemble provides us with a unique and courageous account of the 'peculiar institution' that was thrust upon her by her marriage to Pierce Butler, the wealthy scion of a Southern plantation owner. Already a celebrated actress when she came to America, Fanny was well-educated and accustomed to earning her own living when she married Pierce. It was only after traveling from Philadelphia to Butler Island, near Darien, Georgia, that she became aware of the full horror and degradation of slavery. She toured the plantation, helped to nurse the sick, did what she could to improve their conditions, and opened her door to all who dared to air their grievances, much to the dismay of her husband. Eventually, their disagreements on these points led to a divorce, and Fanny returned to Europe where she resumed her theatrical career. This volume also contains Fanny's letters to friends and confidants that provide a valuable insight into the cultural climate in England as well as America for much of the 19th century. These journals and letters are not only entertaining, but a must for any serious student of American history.20 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Fanny Kemble's JournalsBy rebuggingI was attracted to this book after I saw the movie, Enslavement, based on the life of Fanny Kemble who lived before, during and after the Civil War. This book uses excerpts from her letters and journals to tell the story of her adult life, but it does not contain all of her written material. She published several journals, letter collectiions, and plays. Fanny was a remarkable woman, obviously much before her time. She was

unusually independent and energetic, and her writing includes few of the stereotypes typical of the period. However, we are able to see how the customs of society restricted her ability to act, especially her efforts to help eliminate slavery and improve the life of her husband's slaves. Because of her popularity as an actress she was able to earn a living after divorcing her husband, but he had control over their children until they reached adulthood. This book gives unusual insight into the lifestyles and concerns of the period. It actually reads like a novel. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Eyewitness Expose of Slavery By RLHEXCELLENT book!!! Ms. Kemble was an English lady averse to slavery who found herself mistress of a plantation. Graphic details of what really went on during the 1830's on a South Carolina rice plantation. Ranks up there with Mary Chesnut's Diary!!

Henry James called Fanny Kemble's autobiography "one of the most animated autobiographies in the language." Born into the first family of the British stage, Fanny Kemble was one of the most famous woman writers of the English-speaking world, a best-selling author on both sides of the Atlantic. In addition to her essays, poetry, plays, and a novel, Kemble published six works of memoir, eleven volumes in all, covering her life, which began in the first decade of the nineteenth century and ended in the last. Her autobiographical writings are compelling evidence of Kemble's wit and talent, and they also offer a dazzling overview of her transatlantic world. Kemble kept up a running commentary in letters and diaries on the great issues of her day. The selections here provide a narrative thread tracing her intellectual development—especially her views on women and slavery. She is famous for her identification with abolitionism, and many excerpts reveal her passionate views on the subject. The selections show a life full of personal tragedy as well as professional achievements. An elegant introduction provides a context for appreciating Kemble's remarkable life and achievements, and the excerpts from her journals allow her, once again, to speak for herself.

From Publishers Weekly Upon the death of the celebrated British actress Fanny Kemble (1809-1893), her confidant and admirer Henry James said she had written some of the best autobiography of her day. But that autobiographical writing runs to thousands of pages, a bit much for the casual reader. So Kemble's biographer, historian Catherine Clinton (Fanny Kemble's Civil Wars, Forecasts, July 10), has edited a slender volume, selecting the juiciest, most revealing and most incisive sections of Kemble's oeuvre. Having married a Southern plantation owner, Pierce Butler, Kemble became an outspoken and, because of her fame and her husband's station, controversial critic of the South's peculiar institution. Clinton presents a range of writings on both personal and political subjects. We find Kemble's musings about her stage career (her exciting debut, an attack of nerves); about gender and ability (women, she believed, cannot possibly be "good dramatic writers"); about marriage; and about what she considered to be America's loathsome culture. Kemble spares nothing her withering eye and cutting tongue. As she observes, for example, that women in America "ripen very early" but "decay... soon." Not surprisingly, the book also contains lots of intimate details about Kemble's stormy marriage, and offers the full range of her ideas about slavery. Clinton's short but effective introduction combines with Kemble's candid writings to deliver an intriguing tale and a remarkable view into the race and gender battles of 19th-century America. Splendidly edited and handsomely designed, this collection clears room for readers to hear the unforgettable voice of Kemble herself, with little interference. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal There are those who say Fanny Kemble was born to the stage; others would argue that she was born to write, especially about contemporary England and America. These excerpts from Kemble's diaries, letters, and memoirs attest to her singularity as an observer. Married to a slave owner (whom she later divorced), the English-born Kemble became fiercely opposed to slavery, and her writings on the subject are stirring, fearless, and crusading. In 1863, believing Britain that might side with the Confederacy, Kemble published her antislavery writings (written years earlier) in England, winning many to the abolitionist side. Her views on overseers, the whipping of slaves, their funerals, literacy, mixed-race children, and freedom are sure to make readers bow to Kemble and her pen. Her views on acting, marriage, childbirth, children, motherhood, America, secessionist politics, and the status of women demonstrate a rare intelligence, passion, and imagination. Editor Clinton should be commended for publishing this work along with her new biography of Kemble. Recommended for all public libraries. DRobert L. Kelly, Fort Wayne Community Schs., IN Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Clinton's editing of Kemble's journals, though it spans her life, selects most from her Journal of a Residence on a Georgia Plantation. Written 20 years before the Civil War, when she sojourned at Butler's plantations for several months, it was published in 1863 to the acclaim of opinion in the North. Composed over her 80-plus years, Kemble's journals convey a variety of nineteenth-century experiences, from the discomforts of travel to the wonders of Rome. Gilbert Taylor Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved