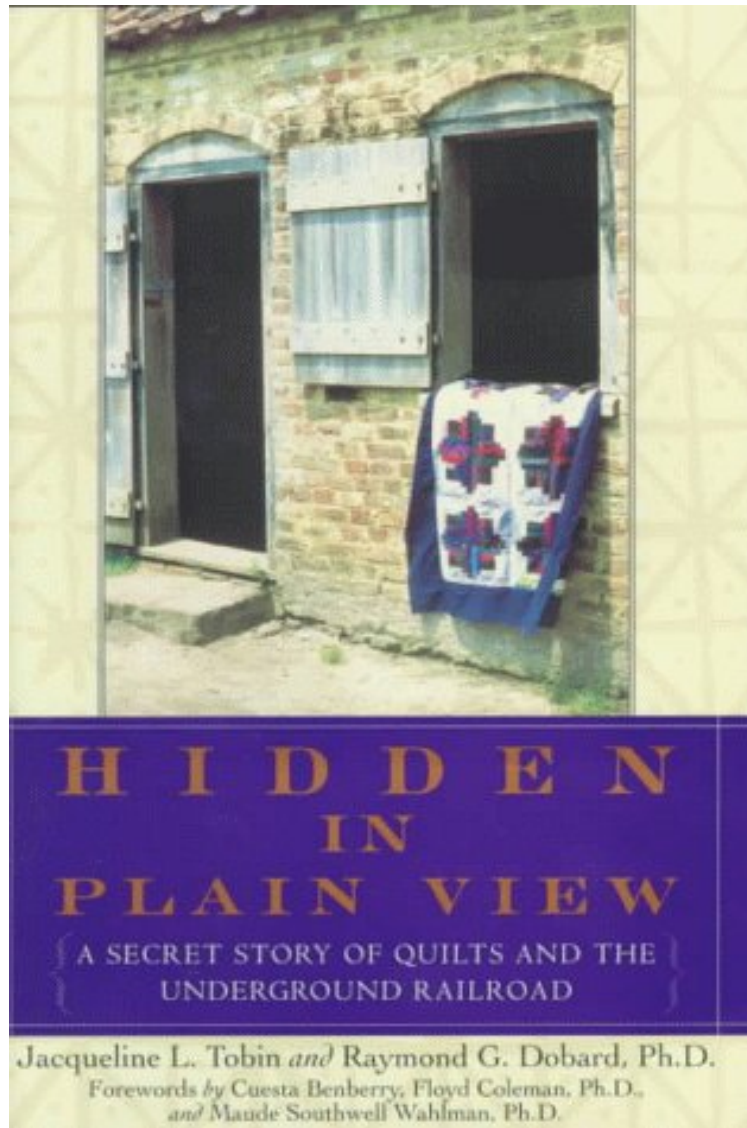


(Download) Hidden in Plain View: A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad

## Hidden in Plain View: A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad

Jacqueline L. Tobin, Raymond G. Dobard  
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**Jacqueline L. Tobin, Raymond G. Dobard : Hidden in Plain View: A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hidden in Plain View: A Secret Story of Quilts and the Underground Railroad:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I read a synopsis of this book in a Time ...By Christine ShuckI read a synopsis of this book in a Time Life for Kids reader with my homeschooled daughter. It sounded so fascinating I had

to buy the book. So far I am enjoying it immensely. Such rich history under our very noses! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Exciting Addition to Family History By Mary Lou Peters Schram The discovery of the systems escaped slaves used to get North and into Canada by the secret language in quilt patterns was exciting, the more so for the fact that it has remained secret for the many years since the end of the Civil War. To someone like myself who has been a quilter and who knew already something about the terminus of the Underground Railway along the Ohio River. in Kentucky, it was even more so. I have seen the house which was known to have hidden the escapees. This location was a matter of local pride to people who grew up in that small town. I was happy to purchase the book and present it to a woman who was a child of former slaves. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book for history fans By CareBear Very good story. The first part of the book takes a long time to validate that there was a history of using quilts by the slaves. But once it got past that, there is fascinating information about the slave community and their culture and how they adapted their occupations in Africa to their new (and horrible) environment. Great story about the ingenious way they used the quilts to communicate. Good book for history fans.

"There are five square knots on the quilt every two inches apart. They escaped on the fifth knot on the tenth pattern and went to Ontario, Canada. The monkey wrench turns the wagon wheel toward Canada on a bear's paw trail to the crossroads--" And so begins the fascinating story that was passed down from generation to generation in the family of Ozella McDaniel Williams. But what appears to be a simple story that was handed down from grandmother to mother to daughter is actually much, much more than that. In fact, it is a coded message steeped in African textile traditions that provides a link between slave-made quilts and the Underground Railroad. In 1993, author Jacqueline Tobin visited the Old Market Building in the historic district of Charleston, South Carolina, where local craftspeople sell their wares. Amid piles of beautiful handmade quilts, Tobin met African American quilter Ozella Williams and the two struck up a conversation. With the admonition to "write this down," Williams began to tell a fascinating story that had been handed down from her mother and grandmother before her. As Tobin sat in rapt attention, Williams began to describe how slaves made coded quilts and then used them to navigate their escape on the Underground Railroad. But just as quickly as she started, Williams stopped, informing Tobin that she would learn the rest when she was "ready." During the three years it took for Williams's narrative to unfold--and as the friendship and trust between the two women grew--Tobin enlisted Raymond Dobard, Ph.D., an art history professor and well-known African American quilter, to help provide the historical context behind what Williams was describing. Now, based on Williams's story and their own research, Tobin and Dobard, in what they call "Ozella's Underground Railroad Quilt Code," offer proof that some slaves were involved in a sophisticated network that melded African textile traditions with American quilt practices and created a potent result: African American quilts with patterns that conveyed messages that were, in fact, essential tools for escape along the Underground Railroad.

.com When quiltmaker Ozella McDaniels told Jacqueline Tobin of the Underground Railroad Quilt Code, it sparked Tobin to place the tale within the history of the Underground Railroad. Hidden in Plain View documents Tobin and Raymond Dobard's journey of discovery, linking Ozella's stories to other forms of hidden communication from history books, codes, and songs. Each quilt, which could be laid out to air without arousing suspicion, gave slaves directions for their escape. Ozella tells Tobin how quilt patterns like the wagon wheel, log cabin, and shoofly signaled slaves how and when to prepare for their journey. Stitching and knots created maps, showing slaves the way to safety. The authors construct history around Ozella's story, finding evidence in cultural artifacts like slave narratives, folk songs, spirituals, documented slave codes, and children's stories. Tobin and Dobard write that "from the time of slavery until today, secrecy was one way the black community could protect itself. If the white man didn't know what was going on, he couldn't seek reprisals." Hidden in Plain View is a multilayered and unique piece of scholarship, oral history, and cultural exploration that reveals slaves as deliberate agents in their own quest for freedom even as it shows that history can sometimes be found where you least expect it. --Amy Wan From the Forewords: "Tobin and Dobard have taken quilt scholarship to another level. They have revealed that quilts are at once sources of pleasure, information, and meaning and are central to understanding the history of people of African ancestry in North America." --Floyd Coleman, Ph.D. "Jacqueline Tobin is to be applauded for being in the right place at the right time, and having enough faith to go back again and again to listen to the story of one family's effort to encode knowledge in their quilt tops. And one salutes her partnership with Raymond Dobard, whose knowledge of quilting technology is so outstanding. Their persistence--is vital to our understanding of African American culture and its myriad contributions to American life." --Maude Southwell Wahlman, Ph.D., author of Signs and Symbols: African Images in African American Quilts "By engaging in a vast amount of research, authors Tobin and Dobard have established a significant linkage between the Underground Railroad effort, escaping slaves, and the American patchwork quilt." --Cuesta Benberry, author of Always There: The African American Presence in American Quilts From the Inside Flap "There are five square knots on the quilt every two inches apart. They escaped on the fifth knot on the tenth pattern and went to Ontario, Canada. The monkey wrench turns the wagon wheel toward Canada on a bear's paw trail to the crossroads--

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