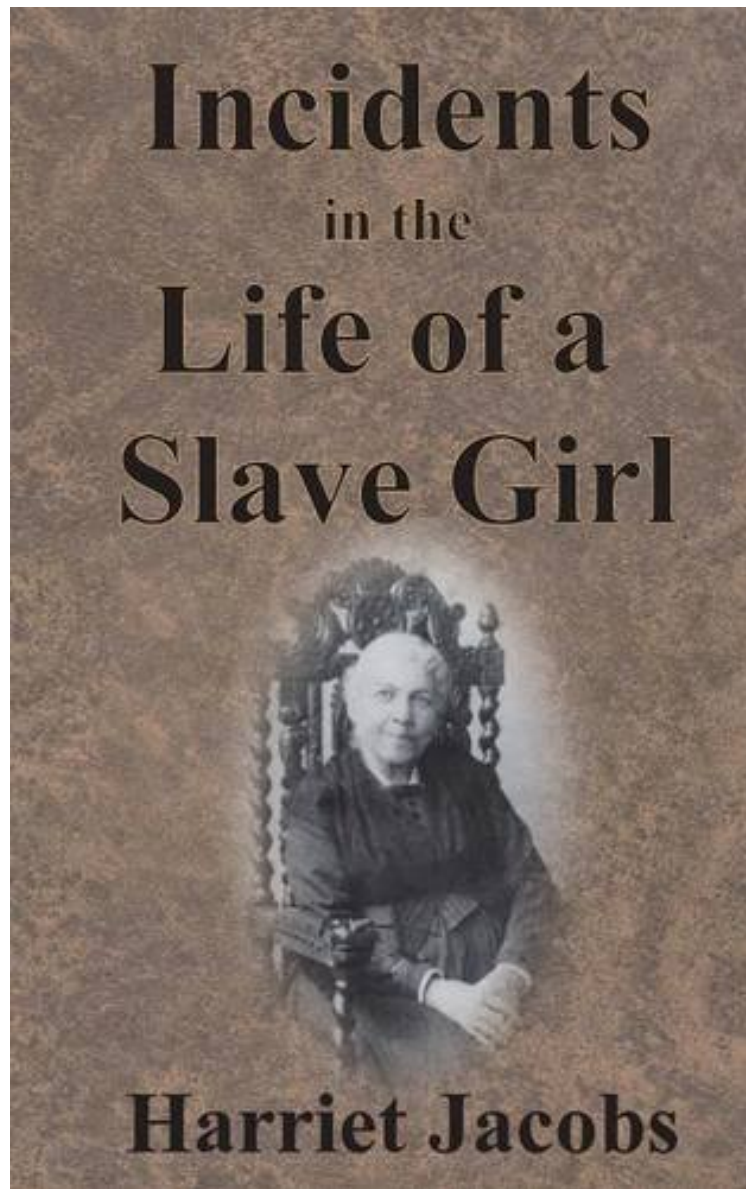


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Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl

Harriet Jacobs

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Harriet Jacobs : Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl:

63 of 65 people found the following review helpful. for they allow us to gain a better understanding of how far our society has comeBy JayahThis autobiography was assigned to me when I was a junior in high school. Three years later, as a sophomore in college, I was asked to read the book again for my class on Black Thought and Literature. I

wish that I had taken the time to slow down and analyze Frederick Douglass' narrative from a literal, analytical, and figurative perspective. Had I done that the first time around—as opposed to treating the book as another required reading that I needed to speed-read through—I believe that my understanding would have been more in-depth and meaningful. The emotion and conviction with which the author writes is not only poetic and moving, but captivating as well. The imagery, combined with Douglass' views on religion's role in the enslavement of black bodies, masterfully paints a story that (in combination with other narratives) has, unfortunately, been lost throughout time. In fact, many Black writers during this period refused to publish their experiences for fear that they will be caught and returned to slavery. In other cases, some writers used pen names to add some anonymity to their experiences. Nevertheless, such works should be cherished and valued; for they allow us to gain a better understanding of how far our society has come, and how much more needs to be done to ensure a future where everyone is equal (in the truest sense of the word). 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What a Heart-breaker! By Donna Kelley I marvel that someone could have endured such deprivations and abuses of slavery and yet lived to tell it. I did not care for the long, run-on sentences which seem to be typical of that period in history. The poem at the end perfectly encapsulated the woes of slavery. I found the book so poignant that I could not have read it all in one sitting. My empathy could not withstand the mistreatment of the main character for long reading sessions. .0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Please read or reread By Customer Although there is difficulty in typing that a work like "Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass, An American Slave" was enjoyable, I feel more humane after reading this text. And I enjoy the idea of this progression. With the types of difficulties we have today being American, there is also a feeling of reward accompanying the finishing of a text where ingenuity and the pursuit of learning are not portrayed as traits of the vain, but as the talents of those with the will to exist. Fredrick Douglass' narrative is uniquely American and inherently African American and anyone who feels pride belonging to one or both of these groups should read or reread this book.

The voice of a black female slave, written in her own hand, as she struggles for identity and freedom. What is it to serve a master? What is it to know you are bought free? Read for yourself.

From Library Journal Published in 1861, this was one of the first personal narratives by a slave and one of the few written by a woman. Jacobs (1813-97) was a slave in North Carolina and suffered terribly, along with her family, at the hands of a ruthless owner. She made several failed attempts to escape before successfully making her way North, though it took years of hiding and slow progress. Eventually, she was reunited with her children. For all biography and history collections. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. Published in 1861, this was one of the first personal narratives by a slave and one of the few written by a woman. Jacobs (1813-97) was a slave in North Carolina and suffered terribly, along with her family, at the hands of a ruthless owner. She made several failed attempts to escape before successfully making her way North, though it took years of hiding and slow progress. Eventually, she was reunited with her children. For all biography and history collections. (Library Journal) "Slavery is terrible for men, but it is far more terrible for women," Harriet Jacobs wrote in 1861. At that time she was an escaped slave living in the north, but the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 meant that she could not longer consider being in the northern states a guarantee of freedom or safety. Her book is an eloquent recital of the suffering that is slavery. Families broken apart; promises of freedom made but never kept; whippings, beatings, and burnings; masters selling their own children - all are recounted with precise detail and a blazing indignation. Harriet Jacobs' master started pursuing her when she was fifteen; in disgust she continually refused and avoided him. Her first attempt at revenge and escape failed: she became the lover of a local unmarried white man and had several children, but even then her master refused to sell her. Finally, in desperation, she ran away and hid in an uninsulated garret, three feet high at its tallest point with almost no air or light. She stayed there for seven years, enduring cold, heat, and a crippling lack of movement, always hoping to catch a glimpse of her children through a crack in the walls as they walked by on the road below her. At last she had a chance to escape to the North. Her story is a remarkable testimony to her strength and courage, and an unrelenting attack upon the institution of slavery. -- For great reviews of books for girls, check out Let's Hear It for the Girls: 375 Great Books for Readers 2-14. --From 500 Great Books by Women; review by Erica Bauermeister (Erica Bauermeister) From the Inside Flap This Modern Library Paperback Classics edition combines the two most important African American slave narratives into one volume. Frederick Douglass's Narrative, first published in 1845, is an enlightening and incendiary text. Born into slavery, Douglass became the preeminent spokesman for his people during his life; his narrative is an unparalleled account of the dehumanizing effects of slavery and Douglass's own triumph over it. Like Douglass, Harriet Jacobs was born into slavery, and in 1861 she published Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, now recognized as the most comprehensive antebellum slave narrative written by a woman. Jacobs's account broke the silence on the exploitation of African American female slaves, and it remains crucial reading. These narratives illuminate and inform each other. This edition includes an incisive Introduction by Kwame Anthony Appiah and extensive annotations. "From the Trade Paperback edition.