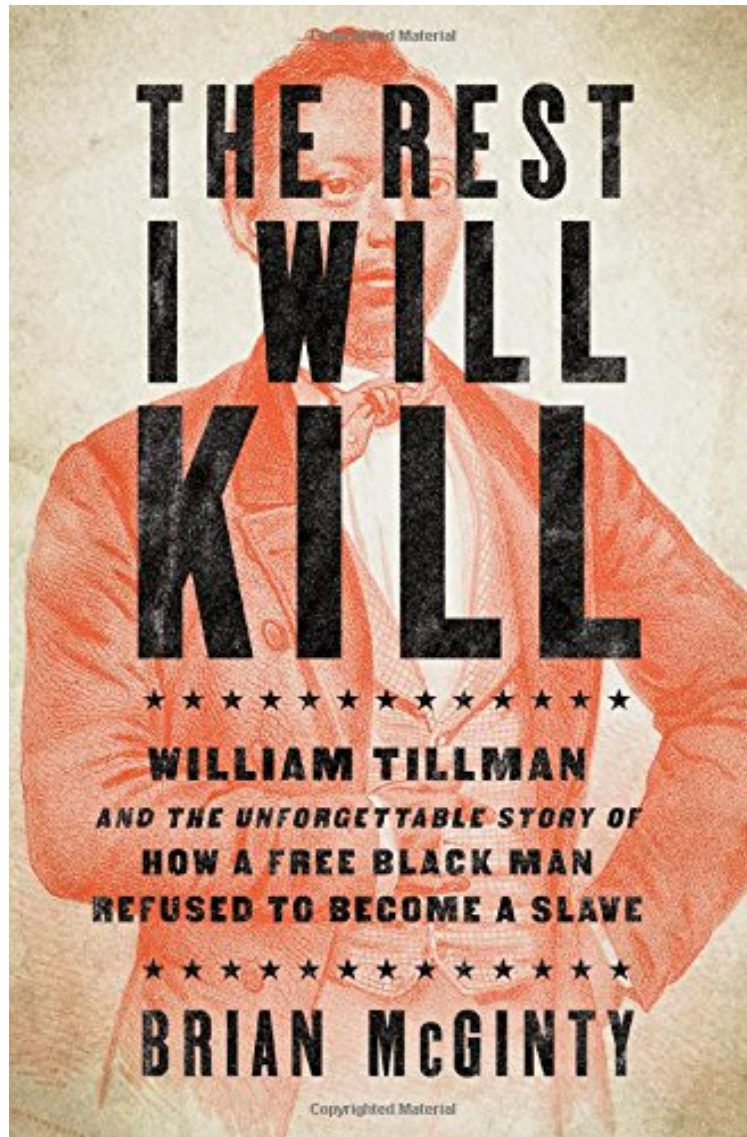


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## The Rest I Will Kill: William Tillman and the Unforgettable Story of How a Free Black Man Refused to Become a Slave

Brian McGinty

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**Brian McGinty : The Rest I Will Kill: William Tillman and the Unforgettable Story of How a Free Black Man Refused to Become a Slave** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Rest I Will Kill: William Tillman and the Unforgettable Story of How a Free Black Man Refused to Become a Slave:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. American HeroBy Jacquelyn J. CacciaI may not be a Civil War aficionado, but I have read extensively and visited nearly all the major battle fields. This book was a total surprise. I had not heard of William Tillman and his heroic escape from certain slavery. He acts as a role model for us all to never give up. I highly recommend this 'rediscovered' bit of US history.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This story of William Tillman deserves a screen adaptation!By DanSimI have wanted to read the story of William Tillman ever since I first heard it mentioned by the British stand-up comedian Mark Steel in his 30-minute lecture on The American Civil War. I now look forward to the movie adaption! 12 Years a Slave was not a bad movie, but it is about time that the story of a slave who single-handedly freed not only himself but also his fellow captives, a small group of white Northerners, could reach a much larger audience than a book is usually able to do.By the way, audio as well as video versions of Mark Steel's lecture about the American Civil War can be found online.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great ReadBy Vicki H.Excellent historical perspective. Enjoyed the book immensely.

A surprising work of narrative history and detection that illuminates one of the most daring?and long-forgotten?heroes of the Civil War.Independence Day, 1861. The schooner S. J. Waring sets sail from New York on a routine voyage to South America. Seventeen days later, it limps back into New York's frenzied harbor with the ship's black steward, William Tillman, at the helm. While the story of that ill-fated voyage is one of the most harrowing tales of captivity and survival on the high seas, it has, almost unbelievably, been lost to history.Now reclaiming Tillman as the real American hero he was, historian Brian McGinty dramatically returns readers to that riotous, explosive summer of 1861, when the country was tearing apart at the seams and the Union army was in near shambles following a humiliating defeat at the First Battle of Bull Run. Desperate for good news, the North was soon riveted by reports of an incident that occurred a few hundred miles off the coast of New York, where the Waring had been overtaken by a marauding crew of Confederate privateers. While the white sailors became chummy with their Southern captors, free black man William Tillman was perfectly aware of the fate that awaited him in the ruthless, slave-filled ports south of the Mason-Dixon Line. Stealthily biding his time until a moonlit night nine days after the capture, Tillman single-handedly killed three officers of the privateer crew, then took the wheel and pointed it home. Yet, with no experience as a navigator, only one other helper, and a war-torn Atlantic seaboard to contend with, his struggle had just begun.It took five perilous days at sea?all thrillingly recounted here?before the Waring returned to New York Harbor, where the story of Tillman's shipboard courage became such a tabloid sensation that he was not only put on the bill of Barnum's American Museum but also proclaimed to be the "first hero" of the Civil War. As McGinty evocatively shows, however, in the horrors of the war then engulfing the nation, memories of his heroism?even of his identity?were all but lost to history.As such, *The Rest I Will Kill* becomes a thrilling and historically significant work, as well as an extraordinary journey that recounts how a free black man was able to defy efforts to make him a slave and become an unlikely glimmer of hope for a disheartened Union army in the war-battered North. 8 pages of illustrations

"Spectacular. . . [A] carefully researched and expertly crafted book . . . . *The Rest I Will Kill* should enchant a wide audience: history buffs, Civil War enthusiasts, pirate junkies, readers who love action and adventure, and those interested in the seemingly unending quest for liberty. It's difficult to imagine the person who can't find something to admire in these pages" - Michael Kleber-Diggs, Minneapolis Star Tribune"*McGinty has uncovered another compelling, little-known gem of American history...[He] impressively recounts this extraordinary story of a remarkable man, the 'first real hero of the conflict.'* Race, patriotism, and personal heroism come together in this eye-opening early episode in Civil War history." - Kirkus s"*Vivid writing creates an exciting read, and McGinty's use of primary sources such as newspapers and government documents is exceptional. . . . McGinty dubs Tillman a hero and a patriot, one of the first during the Civil War. An important contribution to the shelf of Civil War histories, this story will transfix readers.*" - Patricia Ann Owens, Library Journal (Starred )About the AuthorBrian McGinty is an attorney and writer who specializes in American history and law. His previous books include *Lincoln's Greatest Case*, *The Body of John Merryman: Abraham Lincoln and the Suspension of Habeas Corpus*, and *John Brown's Trial*. He lives in Scottsdale, Arizona.