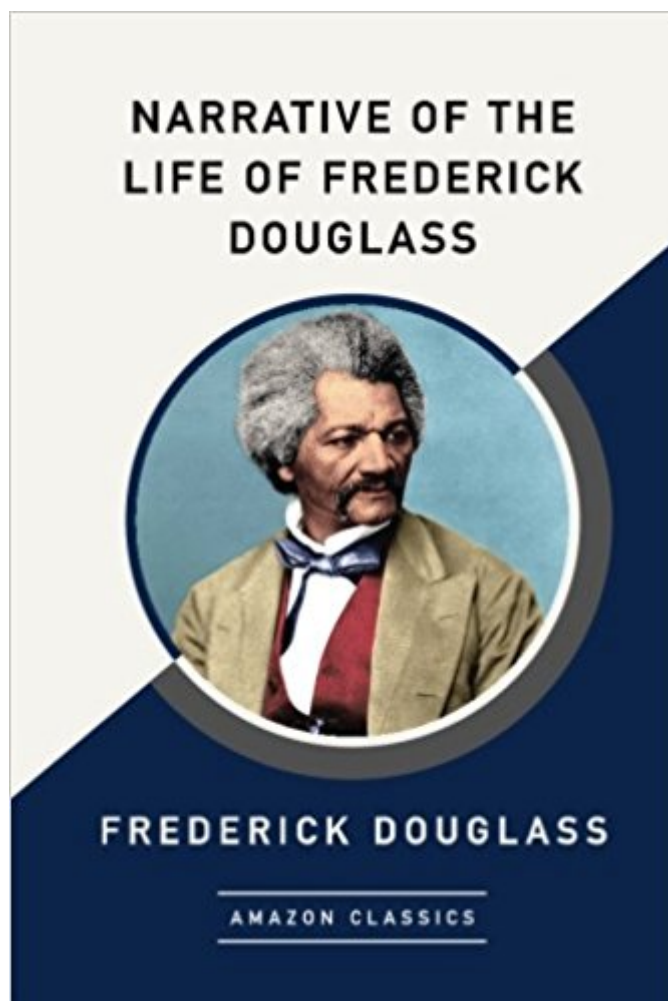


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Narrative Of The Life Of Frederick Douglass (Classics Edition)



Synopsis

Frederick Douglass's celebrated memoir is among the most influential works of the nineteenth-century abolitionist movement in the United States. Beginning with his birth on a Maryland plantation in 1818, Douglass's account records the tyranny and brutality of his life in slavery until his ultimate escape to New Bedford, Massachusetts, at the age of twenty. Published in 1845 just seven years after his escape, Douglass's narrative sold five thousand copies in its first four months in print. His story's impact then and now makes Douglass a key figure in the fight for African American freedom and equality in the United States. Revised edition: Previously published as *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, this edition of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (Classics Edition) includes editorial revisions.

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Customer Reviews

Born into slavery in Maryland as Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey (1818–1895), Douglass escaped and went on to become an orator, author, and national leader in the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and New York. Douglass, who taught himself to read and write, gave many speeches against slavery and was the author of three autobiographies. Douglass also became active in politics, successfully campaigning to make ending slavery a key issue in the Civil War and to allow black soldiers to fight in the Union army. His belief in equality for all continued after the war, as he fought for African American rights and became an active supporter of

women's suffrage until his death.

Frederick Douglass paints an almost intolerably graphic picture of slavery. Yes, he lived it, then it he escaped from it. Sure thing, we all have an idea of what slavery was like but our impression is diminished by Hollywood romantic movies. "Song Of The South" and "Gone With The Wind" comes to mind. Frederick Douglass, the man, prior to reading his memoirs, was also a diminished impression. Just another photograph in a high school history book depicting a distinguished looking black man. His postscript was simple: "Early civil rights advocate". Sure, no mention that he born a slave or self educated, eloquent orator and author. So, my belated gratitude goes to Mr. Douglass. You added an important layer to my personal growth as a human being. I'm still early in my eighth decade in 'this' lifetime, and I wonder 'if' I lived before, whether I was ever a slave or much worse, a slave owner. With trepidation, I dread the thought. Read this book, best with Whispersync (audiobook) -- the selection of reader projects himself as if to become the author telling his own story. Either way -- e-book or print -- it's perfect. And so is Frederick, especially true of his epilogue -- to think I almost quit because this story is depressing. For sure, his story is gut wrenching and at times difficult to face, yet it's a 'narrative' that must be told and should be required reading. With that said however, the final reward for me was in reading the closing comments to the "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass". He unloads his most private comments and own private assessment of the American society he was forced to be a part of. I won't spoil it for you by disclosing the topic of this man's justified rebuke; however, he squarely leveled the playing field as it were. He left nothing unsaid and put everything on the table with no room left over for misunderstandings. Thinking of Hollywood, I wonder why a movie, based on the life of Frederick Douglass, has never been made. His life story needs to be known in that it targets is the heart of American history -- the good, the bad, and the truly awful. Thank you for allowing me to vent. Bill B Speechless . . .

Shockingly eye-opening look at slavery up close. Mr. Douglass tells his incredibly painful, yet triumphant story with such clarity and openness that while reading of his experiences, anyone with a heart will not so easily forget it. It was an easy read in that there was no struggle to understand every thought, word, idea, circumstance or emotion he conveyed to paper. Those same qualities, for me, was why it was one of the most difficult things to read. It is a painful (to say the least) reminder that no matter what color we are, or whatever differences we have, we must never again allow ourselves to lose sight of our basic humanity toward each other.

Mr. Douglas suffered terribly at the hands of the many slaveholders in Maryland who treated African Americans without mercy, beating them every whim of feeling superior, underfeeding them, robbing them of earned monies, separating families, forcing them into illicit sexual relationships with the so-called Masters. What is worse is these slave holders purported to be Christians. Mr. Douglas details us in the narrative of his life. Fortunately Mr. Frederick Douglas overcame so many obstacles to learn to read and write and eventually escape to freedom. He has told his story in such vivid detail that it made me weep. How could people claiming to be Christians be so blinded by their hate. These were not true followers of Christ. nor are they today. Mr. Douglas explains his thoughts on this in the book to differentiate those who claimed to be Christians and those whose truly served Christ. He refuted the former and embraced the latter. Mr. Douglas' story is a sad indictment of this nation's treatment of the people they enslaved. It is the story of so many enslaved peoples during the period. We see the results today of the blood crying out from the earth for justice with our cities in turmoil because of racial problems today. We need another Frederick Douglas to rise up and speak truth to this nation. As this generation passes away will it be worse or will people have a real spiritual awakening and turn back the division in our culture which exists today?

I think many people don't realize the true character of the horrors of day to day life for the slave. This book tells it in the first person in all its ugliness, cruelty and unfairness. A must read for anyone interested in history and the human condition. The descriptions of what some ministers and missionaries did to slaves are horrifying. Douglass makes a strong polemic about the hypocrisy of the so called christianity as practiced at the time, particularly in the south, which in Douglass' case was Maryland. The book is a bit heavy on bible quotes and religious exhortations, but this was truly felt by the author. Imminently readable. The man was well educated for an ex- slave and for the time and made a powerful case for abolition.

Looking at this period of American History, Frederick Douglas stands as a giant in character and courage. In the reforming days there were many "standing in the gap". The drive to make America strong in principle and purpose in the free world stands as a testimony to the sacrifice needed to help future generations see the value of commitment. America needs citizens whose priority is to help "build up America" to lead the world showing freedom counts.

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