The book was found

Incidents In The Life Of A Slave Girl

Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl
Harriet Jacobs
Published in 1861, Harriet Jacobs's "Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl" was one of the first of the personal slave narratives. At the time this book was first published Harriet Jacobs was living as an escaped slave in the North, a precarious position given the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850. Originally published under the pseudonym Linda Brent, "Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl" is a gripping first hand account of the brutality endured by slaves and one of the few ever written by a woman.

Book Information

File Size: 549 KB
Print Length: 212 pages
Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1414290950
Publisher: Digireads.com (July 1, 2004)
Publication Date: July 1, 2004
Sold by: Digital Services LLC
Language: English
ASIN: B000FC1ZF2
Text-to-Speech: Enabled
X-Ray: Enabled
Word Wise: Enabled
Lending: Not Enabled
Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Customer Reviews

Harriet Jacobs' (1813-1897) "Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl" is one of the few accounts of Southern slavery written by a woman. The book was published in 1861 through the efforts of Maria Child, an abolitionist who edited the book and wrote an introduction to it. The book had its origin in a series of letters Jacobs wrote between 1853 and 1861 to her friends in the abolitionist movement, notably a woman named Amy Post. Historically, there was some doubt about the authorship of the book and about the authenticity of the incidents it records. These doubts have largely been put to rest by the discovery of the letters. The book indeed has elements of a disguise and of a novel.
Jacobs never uses her real name but calls herself instead "Linda Brent." The other characters in the book are also given pseudonyms. Jacobs tells us in the Preface to the book (signed "Linda Brent") that she changed names in order to protect the privacy of individuals but that the incidents recounted in the narrative are "no fiction". Jacobs was born in slave rural North Carolina. As a young girl, she learned to read and write, which was highly rare among slaves. At about the age of 11 she was sent to live as a slave to a doctor who also owned a plantation, called "Dr. Flint" in the book. Jacobs book describes well the cruelties of the "Peculiar Institution -- in terms of its beatings, floggings, and burnings, overwork, starvation, and dehumanization. It focuses as well upon the selling and wrenching apart of families that resulted from the commodification of people in the slave system. But Jacobs’ book is unique in that it describes first-hand the sexual indignities to which women were subjected in slavery. (Other accounts, such as those of Frederick Douglass, were written by men.

This autobiographical condemnation of the south’s Peculiar Institution puts a face on the suffering of the enslaved. American history is full of accounts of slavery which tend to broad overviews of the institution, whereas this book is written by an escaped slave who does not flinch at sharing every detail of her miserable life. Unlike other narratives which distorted the slave’s voice through the perspective of the interviewers/authors who were notorious for exaggerating the uneducated slaves' broken english, this book is largely Ms. Jacobs’ own words. She was taught to read and write as a child by a kind mistress, so she was able to put her thoughts on paper with clarity that surprised many. Ms. Jacobs had an editor, but this book seems to be her unfiltered view of the world. It is one thing to hear about how slaveholders took liberties with female slaves, it is quite another to read in stark detail about women being commanded to lay down in fields, young girls being seduced and impregnated and their offspring sold to rid the slaveholder of the evidence of his licentiousness. The author talks about jealous white women, enraged by their husbands’ behavior, taking it out on the hapless slaves. The white women were seen as ladies, delicate creatures prone to fainting spells and hissy fits whereas the Black women were beasts of burden, objects of lust and contempt simultaneously. Some slave women resisted these lustful swine and were beaten badly because of it. It was quite a conundrum. To be sure, white women suffered under this disgusting system too, though not to the same degree as the female slaves who had no one to protect them and their virtue. Even the notion of a slave having virtue is mocked.

Download to continue reading...

ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE: 1440 - 1870
The Care and Keeping of You (American Girl) (American Girl Library)
Food Allergies:: Hungry Girl has the Recipes : Book 3 (Hungry Girl Cookbooks)
Attract The Right Girl: The Official Guide For Finding Your Dream Girl And Being The Man She Can’t Resist
Summary - The Girl on the Train: Novel by Paula Hawkins -- Story Shortened into 35 Pages or Less!
So Far Gone, Girl: A Gone Girl Parody
Gone Girl: Novel by Gillian Flynn -- Story Shortened into 35 Pages or Less!
(Gone Girl: Shortened into 35 Pages or Less! -- Paperback, Hardcover, Audiobook, Audible, Novel)
Puccini and The Girl: History and Reception of The Girl of the Golden West
Party Girl (The Girl’s Series Book 1)
Girl for Sale: The shocking true story from the girl trafficked and abused by Oxford’s evil sex ring
The Vanishing Girl (The Vanishing Girl Series Book 1)
Skater Girl: A Girl’s Guide to Skateboarding
Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market
A Tale of Two Plantations: Slave Life and Labor in Jamaica and Virginia
PERO: The Life of a Slave in Eighteenth-Century Bristol
TRANCE: Formation of America: True life story of a mind control slave
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave, Written by Himself (Bedford Cultural Editions Series)

Dmca