

12 years a slave by solomon northup

****12 Years a Slave by Solomon Northup: A Harrowing Account of Freedom and Captivity****

12 years a slave by solomon northup is more than just a title—it's a powerful testament to the resilience of the human spirit amidst unimaginable suffering. This autobiographical narrative, first published in 1853, recounts the true story of Solomon Northup, a free African-American man from New York who was kidnapped and sold into slavery in the Deep South. His gripping memoir offers a rare, firsthand glimpse into the brutal realities of slavery in America, and it remains a critical piece of literature for understanding the country's painful history.

In this article, we'll explore the background of Solomon Northup's story, the impact of his memoir, and why "12 years a slave by solomon northup" continues to be relevant today. We'll also consider how his narrative has influenced literature, film, and the ongoing dialogue about race and freedom.

The Story Behind 12 Years a Slave by Solomon Northup

The narrative begins in 1841 when Solomon Northup, a skilled violinist and a father of three, was lured to Washington, D.C., with the promise of a lucrative music job. However, instead of employment, he was drugged, kidnapped, and sold into slavery. Northup was taken to Louisiana, where he endured the brutal conditions of forced labor on plantations for over a decade.

From Freedom to Bondage: The Kidnapping

One of the most shocking aspects of Northup's story is how easily a free man could be stripped of his liberty during that era. Despite having legal documents proving his free status, Northup was powerless against the corrupt system that enslaved him. His story highlights the precariousness of freedom for African Americans in the antebellum United States, where even legal protections could be ignored or overridden.

Life as a Slave in the Deep South

Northup's memoir offers detailed insights into the daily hardships faced by slaves: grueling work under the scorching sun, inadequate food, constant threats of violence, and the emotional toll of separation from family and community. His vivid descriptions help readers understand the physical and psychological torment endured by those enslaved.

Historical Significance and Impact of the Memoir

"12 years a slave by solomon northup" is not just a personal story; it became a pivotal document in the fight against slavery. The book was published by abolitionists and quickly gained attention for its unflinching portrayal of the cruelty inherent in the institution of slavery.

Contributing to the Abolitionist Movement

The memoir helped fuel anti-slavery sentiment in the North by exposing the realities of slavery to readers who might have otherwise been unaware. Northup's detailed account challenged pro-slavery propaganda and provided undeniable proof of the atrocities committed against African Americans.

Authenticity and Legal Validation

To ensure the memoir's credibility, Northup's story was corroborated by affidavits and testimonies from witnesses who knew him before and after his enslavement. This legal validation was crucial at a time when many slave narratives were dismissed as exaggerations or fabrications.

The Legacy of 12 Years a Slave by Solomon Northup in Modern Culture

More than 150 years after its publication, the memoir continues to resonate. Its adaptation into the 2013 Academy Award-winning film "12 Years a Slave" brought Northup's story to a global audience, reigniting discussions about slavery, racism, and justice.

The Film Adaptation and Its Cultural Reception

Directed by Steve McQueen and starring Chiwetel Ejiofor as Solomon Northup, the film was praised for its unvarnished portrayal of slavery and its emotional depth. It helped a new generation understand the human cost of slavery beyond textbooks and historical summaries.

Educational Importance and Continued Relevance

"12 years a slave by solomon northup" is widely studied in schools and universities as a crucial primary source for American history and African-American literature. Its themes of

injustice, endurance, and hope make it relevant not only in historical contexts but also in contemporary conversations about race relations and civil rights.

What Readers Can Learn from Solomon Northup's Narrative

Reading the memoir today offers several important lessons about history, humanity, and resilience.

Understanding the Complexity of Slavery

Northup's detailed narrative challenges simplified or romanticized views of slavery by highlighting its systemic brutality and the complexity of human relationships within that system, including moments of kindness amid cruelty.

The Power of Advocacy and Storytelling

Northup's ability to share his story after regaining freedom underscores the importance of giving voice to marginalized individuals. His memoir stands as a reminder that personal narratives can influence social change and preserve history.

Resilience in the Face of Adversity

Above all, "12 years a slave by solomon northup" is a story of survival. Northup's endurance, intelligence, and hope allowed him to reclaim his freedom after years of unimaginable hardship—offering inspiration to readers facing their own struggles.

Tips for Exploring 12 Years a Slave by Solomon Northup

If you're interested in diving deeper into this powerful memoir, here are some tips to enhance your reading experience:

- **Contextualize the story:** Familiarize yourself with the historical background of slavery in the United States to better understand the environment in which Northup's story unfolds.
- **Engage with supplementary materials:** Look for documentaries, lectures, and

articles that analyze the memoir and its impact.

- **Reflect on the themes:** Consider how Northup's experiences relate to broader issues of justice, human rights, and resilience.
- **Join discussions:** Participate in book clubs or online forums to hear diverse perspectives on the memoir.

Exploring these facets can deepen your appreciation of Solomon Northup's work and its enduring significance.

The journey portrayed in "12 years a slave by solomon northup" is a sobering reminder of the past's harsh realities, yet it also shines as a beacon of hope and human dignity. Through his words, Northup not only preserved his own history but also contributed to a broader understanding and reckoning with a dark chapter in American history. His story continues to educate, challenge, and inspire, proving the lasting power of truth told from the heart.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the historical significance of '12 Years a Slave' by Solomon Northup?

'12 Years a Slave' is significant because it is a firsthand narrative of Solomon Northup, a free African American man who was kidnapped and sold into slavery. The memoir provides a detailed and personal account of the brutality of slavery in the United States, contributing to the abolitionist movement and historical understanding of slavery.

How does Solomon Northup describe his experience of being kidnapped and enslaved in '12 Years a Slave'?

Solomon Northup describes his kidnapping as a traumatic event where he was deceitfully lured, drugged, and sold into slavery despite being a free man. He details the physical and emotional hardships he endured, including brutal treatment by slave owners and the constant struggle to maintain hope and identity.

What themes are explored in '12 Years a Slave' by Solomon Northup?

The memoir explores themes such as freedom and captivity, the cruelty and inhumanity of slavery, resilience and survival, the importance of identity and family, and the moral and social injustices of the antebellum American South.

How accurate is the film adaptation of '12 Years a Slave' compared to Solomon Northup's original memoir?

The film adaptation of '12 Years a Slave' is largely faithful to Solomon Northup's memoir, capturing the key events and emotional intensity of his story. While some scenes and characters were dramatized or condensed for cinematic purposes, the film effectively conveys the core experiences and themes detailed in the book.

What impact did '12 Years a Slave' have upon its publication and in modern times?

Upon publication in 1853, '12 Years a Slave' raised awareness about the realities of slavery and supported abolitionist efforts. In modern times, it continues to be an important work for education on slavery, human rights, and American history, inspiring discussions about race, justice, and resilience.

Additional Resources

12 Years a Slave by Solomon Northup: A Critical Examination of Historical Truth and Literary Impact

12 years a slave by solomon northup stands as one of the most compelling autobiographical narratives detailing the brutal realities of American slavery in the 19th century. This firsthand account chronicles Northup's harrowing experience as a free Black man from New York who was kidnapped and sold into slavery, enduring twelve years of enslavement before regaining his freedom. The text not only provides a crucial eyewitness perspective on the institution of slavery but also challenges prevailing narratives of its time, offering invaluable insights into the socio-political climate of antebellum America.

Historical Context and Background

Solomon Northup's memoir was first published in 1853, a period when abolitionist movements were gaining momentum but pro-slavery sentiments remained deeply entrenched in many parts of the United States. His story is unique in that it documents the kidnapping of a free man—a legal anomaly that underscores the precariousness of Black liberty in a racially divided society. The memoir serves as a powerful counter-narrative to the romanticized or sanitized portrayals of slavery common in pro-slavery literature.

The book's full title, *Twelve Years a Slave: Narrative of Solomon Northup, a Citizen of New-York, Kidnapped in Washington City in 1841, and Rescued in 1853, from a Cotton Plantation near the Red River, Louisiana*, explicitly emphasizes the geographical and legal journey Northup endured. His experience exposes the systemic failures that enabled free African Americans to fall victim to slavery, shedding light on the complicity of institutions such as law enforcement, courts, and slave traders.

Literary Features and Narrative Style

Northup's narrative employs a straightforward and factual prose style, which enhances the memoir's credibility and emotional impact. Unlike fictionalized accounts or sensationalized abolitionist rhetoric, *12 Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup maintains an investigative tone, recounting events with meticulous detail and restraint. This journalistic approach enables readers to engage critically with the material, analyzing the conditions and social dynamics without overt emotional manipulation.

The memoir's structure follows a chronological progression, beginning with Northup's life as a free man, his abduction, and subsequent enslavement on various plantations. The text is rich with descriptions of the physical labor, living conditions, and interpersonal relationships shaped by the brutal system of chattel slavery. Through this detailed storytelling, Northup humanizes the enslaved and exposes the moral contradictions of a society that proclaimed liberty while perpetuating bondage.

Comparative Analysis with Other Slave Narratives

When compared to other slave narratives of the era, such as Frederick Douglass's autobiography or Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, Northup's account offers a distinct perspective. While Douglass and Jacobs focus heavily on their escape and advocacy, Northup's memoir provides a rare insight into the experience of being a free man forcibly reduced to slavery. This aspect broadens the understanding of slavery's reach and the vulnerabilities faced by free Black individuals.

Furthermore, the authenticity of Northup's story was corroborated by contemporary newspaper reports and legal documents, lending significant weight to its historical validity. The memoir's detailed depiction of plantation life in Louisiana also complements ethnographic studies of the region's antebellum economy and social order.

Impact and Modern Relevance

The resurgence of interest in *12 Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup, especially following the 2013 Academy Award-winning film adaptation directed by Steve McQueen, has amplified the memoir's cultural and educational significance. The adaptation renewed public discourse on slavery's legacy and the systemic racial injustices that persist in contemporary society. By bringing Northup's story to a wider audience, the film and the book collectively serve as vital tools for historical education and empathy-building.

From an academic standpoint, Northup's firsthand account continues to be a primary source in the study of slavery, African American history, and legal history. It offers critical insights into the mechanisms of kidnapping, the economics of slavery, and the psychological toll endured by enslaved individuals. The memoir's emphasis on Northup's resilience and eventual rescue also introduces themes of hope and justice that resonate with ongoing struggles for civil rights.

Key Themes Explored in the Memoir

- **Freedom and Identity:** Northup's transformation from a free man to a slave and back highlights the fragile nature of freedom for African Americans in the 19th century.
- **Systemic Injustice:** The narrative exposes the complicity of legal and political systems in enabling slavery and kidnapping.
- **Human Resilience:** Despite dehumanizing conditions, Northup's determination to survive and reclaim his liberty underscores the strength of the human spirit.
- **Economic Exploitation:** The memoir provides detailed accounts of the plantation economy, emphasizing how enslaved labor underpinned wealth accumulation in the South.

Critical Reception and Scholarly Perspectives

Since its publication, 12 years a slave by Solomon Northup has been regarded as a seminal work in African American literature and historical documentation. Scholars praise the memoir for its unflinching honesty and narrative clarity. However, some critics have debated the extent to which the text aligns with abolitionist agendas of the time, suggesting that its detailed focus on cruelty was tailored to galvanize anti-slavery sentiment.

Nonetheless, modern historiography recognizes Northup's account as an indispensable resource that transcends propaganda. The memoir's detailed descriptions of legal battles, social interactions, and plantation management contribute to a nuanced understanding of slavery's complexity. Additionally, its publication in the mid-19th century represents a critical moment wherein formerly enslaved voices began to enter public discourse more prominently.

Pros and Cons of the Memoir as a Historical Source

1. Pros:

- Eyewitness testimony offering granular detail of slavery's realities.
- Unique narrative of a free man's kidnapping and enslavement.
- Contributes to legal and social history through documented court cases.

- Enhances understanding of antebellum Southern plantation life.

2. Cons:

- Potential bias as a personal narrative shaped by abolitionist context.
- Limited perspective focused on one individual's experience.
- Some gaps in the narrative where details rely on memory rather than corroborated evidence.

12 years a slave by solomon northup remains a pivotal text that continues to inform and challenge readers more than 150 years after its initial release. Its enduring relevance lies not only in its historical testimony but also in its capacity to foster deeper conversations about freedom, justice, and human dignity. As contemporary audiences engage with this narrative, they are reminded of the importance of confronting uncomfortable truths and honoring the resilience of those who endured unimaginable hardship.

12 Years A Slave By Solomon Northup

12 years a slave by solomon northup: Twelve Years a Slave Solomon Northup, 2013-11-01
In 1841, free-born African American Solomon Northup was offered a job in his hometown of Saratoga Springs, New York. He followed his employers to the job site at Washington, D.C., where he was beaten, drugged, kidnapped, and sold into slavery, eventually ending up on a plantation in Louisiana owned by Edwin Epps. While there, in 1852, Northup befriended Canadian carpenter Samuel Bass, who was at the time doing work for Epps. Secretly, Bass was able to contact Northup's family, who informed New York governor Washington Hunt of his kidnapping. The state was able to use a law passed in 1840 that allowed the recovery of free black men who were sold into slavery to rescue Northup. Solomon was finally made free again on January 4, 1853. One of few slaves of his era ever to regain freedom, he devoted his time and energy to lecturing and educating others about abolitionism. His memoir of the experience, *Twelve Years a Slave*, was published in 1853, during his first year back as a free man. *Twelve Years a Slave*, a best-seller in its time, became a major motion picture with an all-star cast in October 2013, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor as Solomon Northup, Brad Pitt as Samuel Bass, and Michael Fassbender as Edwin Epps. Cosimo Classics is now presenting a paperback and hard cover jacketed republication of the original edition. SOLOMON NORTHUP (1808-c. 1875) was a free African American from New York who was deceived, drugged, and sold into slavery in Washington, D.C. in 1841. He was transported to New Orleans and sold to a plantation owner in Louisiana. For several years, he was passed around between slave owners before winding up with plantation owner Edwin Epps. There he met Canadian carpenter Samuel Bass, who helped him regain his freedom in 1853. Solomon spent the rest of his life as an abolitionist. He also assisted with the Underground Railroad in the early 1860s.

12 years a slave by solomon northup: 12 Year's A Slave as Written By Solomon Northup

Solomon Northup, 2013-11-22 This unique edition of Solomon Northup's now classic memoir, *12 YEARS A SLAVE*, is given here for the reader in its original, unabridged form. Now a major motion picture.

12 years a slave by solomon northup: *Twelve Years a Slave* Solomon Northup, 2010-09-22 The year was 1841. That Peculiar Institution of slavery was running full bore in the south. Solomon Northup, age 33, a well-educated black man who was born into freedom, resided with his wife and three children in his native state of New York. Solomon was kidnapped and sold into slavery in our nation's capital...Washington, D.C. The perpetrators of this crime, in order to sell Solomon, insisted he was an escaped slave from Georgia. Whenever Solomon protested and declared himself a free man, he was terribly beaten...once near to death. Solomon was sold and transported to Louisiana where he spent twelve long years of suffering, degradation, whippings and hard labor as a slave. For fear of his life, he had to give up the idea of convincing his masters and others that he was actually a free man and a citizen of New York and he resigned himself to the accept the life of a slave. But, through his years of captivity, he never once stopped believing that one day... he would be freed and again become united with his family in New York. The enslavement of the black race was an everyday fact of life from the earliest settlement of this country up to the end of the Civil War, which brought a close to this shameful period of our history. In the 1840's there were many... very many white people who opposed this concept of forced labor and the maltreatment of fellow human beings. The voices of these abolitionists were becoming louder and louder not only in the north where slavery was practically non-existent, but even in the heart of the south also. One of these, Samuel Bass, a Canadian by birth, put his own life in jeopardy to free Solomon. This book gives, in chilling detail, an account of a way of life that hopefully will never, ever, occur again in this great country... the Land of the Free! This book is part of the Historical Collection of Badgley Publishing Company and has been re-created from the original. The original contents have been edited and corrections have been made to original printing, spelling and grammatical errors when not in conflict with the author's intent to portray a particular event or interaction. Annotations have been made and additional content has been added by Badgley Publishing Company in order to clarify certain historical events or interactions and to enhance the author's content. Photos and illustrations from the original have been touched up, enhanced and sometimes enlarged for better viewing. Additional illustrations and photos have been added by Badgley Publishing Company.

12 years a slave by solomon northup: 12 Years a Slave Northup, 2014-02-28 This unforgettable memoir was the basis for the Academy Award nominated film *12 Years a Slave*. This is the true story of Solomon Northup, who was born and raised as a freeman in New York. He lived the American dream, with a house and a loving family - a wife and two kids. Then one day he was drugged, kidnapped, and sold into slavery in the deep south. These are the true accounts of his twelve hard years as a slave - many believe this memoir is even more graphic and disturbing than the film. His extraordinary journey proves the resiliency of hope and the human spirit despite the most grueling and formidable of circumstances. Includes the original illustrations.

12 years a slave by solomon northup: Twelve Years a Slave Solomon Northup, 2013-11-19 The incredible true story of the kidnapping, enslavement, and rescue of Solomon Northup in the era before the Civil War—now a major motion picture! In 1841, Solomon Northup was a free man living in Saratoga Springs, New York, making a living as a violinist and spending his spare time with his wife and three young children. Lured to Washington, DC, with the promise of a generous sum of money, Northup finds himself drugged, beaten, and sold before he can even begin to comprehend the tragic turn his life has taken. Twelve torturous years of slavery follow, with Northup passed from owner to owner, plantation to plantation, until his eventual rescue in 1853. Following his return to New York, Northup wrote and published this extraordinary book, one of the few accounts of American slavery written from the perspective of a man who had been free before being enslaved. Lost for nearly a century, *Twelve Years a Slave* offers unprecedented details of the slave markets of Washington, DC, and describes the excruciating life on Southern cotton plantations. In its time, *Twelve Years a Slave* was a bestseller and ignited a national dialogue on slavery in the years leading

up to the Civil War. Northup's unsparing portrayal of the life of a slave captured minds and eventually divided a nation. Skyhorse Publishing, along with our Arcade, Good Books, Sports Publishing, and Yucca imprints, is proud to publish a broad range of biographies, autobiographies, and memoirs. Our list includes biographies on well-known historical figures like Benjamin Franklin, Nelson Mandela, and Alexander Graham Bell, as well as villains from history, such as Heinrich Himmler, John Wayne Gacy, and O. J. Simpson. We have also published survivor stories of World War II, memoirs about overcoming adversity, first-hand tales of adventure, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

12 years a slave by solomon northup: Twelve Years a Slave Solomon Northup, 2013-12 Solomon Northup was born a free man in New York State. At the age of 33 he was kidnapped in Washington D.C. and placed in an underground slave pen. Northup was transported by ship to New Orleans where he was sold into slavery. He spent the next 12 years working as a carpenter, driver, and cotton picker. This narrative reveals how Northup survived the harsh conditions of slavery, including smallpox, lashings, and an attempted hanging. Solomon Northup was among a select few who were freed from slavery. His account describes the daily life of slaves in Louisiana, their diet and living conditions, the relationship between master and slave, and how slave catchers used to recapture runaways. Northup's first person account published in 1853, was a dramatic story in the national debate over slavery that took place in the nine years leading up to the start of the American Civil War.

12 years a slave by solomon northup: Twelve Years a Slave (Norton Critical Editions) Solomon Northup, 2016-12-15 This Norton Critical Edition of Solomon Northup's harrowing autobiography is based on the 1853 first edition. It is accompanied by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Kevin Burke's introduction and detailed explanatory footnotes. The Norton Critical Edition also includes: · The illustrations printed in the original book. · Contemporary sources (1853–62), among them newspaper accounts of Northup's kidnapping and ordeal and commentary by Frederick Douglass, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Thomas W. MacMahon. · A Genealogy of Secondary Sources (1880-2015) presenting twenty-four voices spanning three centuries on the memoir's major themes. Contributors include George Washington Williams, Marion Wilson Starling, Kenneth Stampp, Robert B. Stepto, Trish Loughran, and David Fiske, Clifford W. Brown, Jr., and Rachel Seligman, among others. · The 2013 film adaptation—12 Years a Slave—fully considered, with criticism and major reviews of the film as well as Henry Louis Gates's three interviews with its director, Steve McQueen. · A Chronology and Selected Bibliography.

12 years a slave by solomon northup: Twelve Years A Slave (Illustrated) Solomon Northup, 2014-08-22 Twelve Years a Slave (1853) is a memoir and slave narrative by Solomon Northup, as told to and edited by David Wilson. Northup, a black man who was born free in New York, details his kidnapping in Washington, D.C. and subsequent sale into slavery. After having been kept in bondage for 12 years in Louisiana by various masters, Northup was able to write to friends and family in New York, who were in turn able to secure his release. Northup's account provides extensive details on the slave markets in Washington, D.C. and New Orleans and describes at length cotton and sugar cultivation on major plantations in Louisiana.

12 years a slave by solomon northup: 12 Years a Slave Solomon Northup, 2015-04-04 12 Years a Slave: Narrative of Solomon Northup. By Solomon Northup. A Citizen of New-York, Kidnapped in Washington City in 1841, and Rescued in 1853: From a Cotton Plantation near the Red River in Louisiana When the editor commenced the preparation of the following narrative, he did not suppose it would reach the size of this volume. In order, however, to present all the facts which have been communicated to him, it has seemed necessary to extend it to its present length. Many of the statements contained in the following pages are corroborated by abundant evidence-others rest entirely upon Solomon's assertion. That he has adhered strictly to the truth the editor, at least, who has had an opportunity of detecting any contradiction or discrepancy in his statements, is well

satisfied. He has invariably repeated the same story without deviating in the slightest particular, and has also carefully perused the manuscript, dictating an alteration wherever the most trivial inaccuracy has appealed. It was Solomon's fortune, during his captivity, to be owned by several masters. The treatment he received while at the Pine Woods shows that among slaveholders there are men of humanity as well of cruelty. Some of them are spoken of with emotions of gratitude-others in a spirit of bitterness. It is believed that the following account of his experience on Bayou Boeuf presents a correct picture of Slavery in all its lights, and shadows, as it now exists in that locality. Unbiased, as he conceives, by any prepossessions or prejudices, the only object of the editor has been to give a faithful history of Solomon Northup's life, as he received it from his lips. In the accomplishment of that object, he trusts he has succeeded, notwithstanding the numerous faults of style and of expression it may be found to contain.

12 years a slave by solomon northup: 12 Years a Slave Solomon Northup, 2013 Solomon Northup was born a free man in New York State. At the age of 33 he was kidnapped in Washington D.C. and placed in an underground slave pen. Northup was transported by ship to New Orleans where he was sold into slavery. He spent the next 12 years working as a carpenter, driver, and cotton picker. This narrative reveals how Northup survived the harsh conditions of slavery, including smallpox, lashings, and an attempted hanging. Solomon Northup was among a select few who were freed from slavery. His account describes the daily life of slaves in Louisiana, their diet and living conditions, the relationship between master and slave, and how slave catchers used to recapture runaways. Northup's first person account published in 1853, was a dramatic story in the national debate over slavery that took place in the nine years leading up to the start of the American Civil War.

12 years a slave by solomon northup: 12 Years a Slave SOLOMON. NORTHUP, 2017-01-04 AND WHAT DIFFERENCE IS THERE IN THE COLOUR OF THE SOUL? A hardworking farmer and an exceptional fiddler, Solomon Northup is born a free man of colour. He lives happily with his wife and children in Saratoga County, New York, until the day an employment offer at a circus changes his life. Tricked, drugged, and kidnapped, Northup gets sold as a slave. And for the twelve years that follow, he lives in bondage under different masters . . . A heart-rending memoir chronicling his fight for survival and freedom, Northup's Twelve Years A Slave is one of the best slave narratives ever written. It was adapted into a historical drama film of the same name in 2013, which went on to win the Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture - Drama.

12 years a slave by solomon northup: Twelve Years a Slave Solomon Northup, 2013-12 Solomon Northup was born a free man in New York State. At the age of 33 he was kidnapped in Washington D.C. and placed in an underground slave pen. Northup was transported by ship to New Orleans where he was sold into slavery. He spent the next 12 years working as a carpenter, driver, and cotton picker. This narrative reveals how Northup survived the harsh conditions of slavery, including smallpox, lashings, and an attempted hanging. Solomon Northup was among a select few who were freed from slavery. His account describes the daily life of slaves in Louisiana, their diet and living conditions, the relationship between master and slave, and how slave catchers used to recapture runaways. Northup's first person account published in 1853, was a dramatic story in the national debate over slavery that took place in the nine years leading up to the start of the American Civil War.

12 years a slave by solomon northup: Twelve Years a Slave Solomon Northup, 2016-10-18 Part of the Penguin Orange Collection, a limited-run series of twelve influential and beloved American classics in a bold series design offering a modern take on the iconic Penguin paperback Winner of the 2016 AIGA + Design Observer 50 Books | 50 Covers competition For the seventieth anniversary of Penguin Classics, the Penguin Orange Collection celebrates the heritage of Penguin's iconic book design with twelve influential American literary classics representing the breadth and diversity of the Penguin Classics library. These collectible editions are dressed in the iconic orange and white tri-band cover design, first created in 1935, while french flaps, high-quality paper, and striking cover illustrations provide the cutting-edge design treatment that is the signature of

Penguin Classics Deluxe Editions today. *Twelve Years a Slave* Perhaps the best written of all the slave narratives, *Twelve Years a Slave* is a harrowing memoir about one of the darkest periods in American history. Brought to new attention by the Academy Award-winning film adaptation, it is recognized for its unusual insight and eloquence as one of the very few portraits of American slavery produced by someone as educated as Solomon Northup, or by someone with the dual perspective of having been both a free man and a slave.

12 years a slave by solomon northup: *12 Years A Slave* Solomon Northup, 2013-10-07 *Twelve Years a Slave* is a memoir of a black man who was born free in New York state but kidnapped, sold into slavery and kept in bondage for 12 years in Louisiana before the American Civil War. He provided details of slave markets in Washington, DC, as well as describing at length cotton cultivation on major plantations in Louisiana. Published soon after Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Northup's book sold 30,000 copies and was considered a bestseller. It went through several editions in the nineteenth century. Supporting Stowe's fictional narrative in detail, Northup's first-hand account of his twelve years of bondage proved another bombshell in the national political debate over slavery leading up to the Civil War, drawing endorsements from major Northern newspapers, anti-slavery organizations, and evangelical groups.

12 years a slave by solomon northup: *Twelve Years a Slave* Solomon Northup, David Wilson, 2016-10-13 *Twelve Years a Slave* is an 1853 memoir and slave narrative by American Solomon Northup as told to and edited by David Wilson. Northup, a black man who was born free in New York state, details his being tricked to go to Washington, D.C., where he was kidnapped and sold into slavery in the Deep South. After having been kept in bondage for 12 years in Louisiana by various masters, Northup was able to write to friends and family in New York, who in turn secured his release with the aid of the state. Northup's account provides extensive details on the slave markets in Washington, D.C. and New Orleans, and describes at length cotton and sugar cultivation and slave treatment on major plantations in Louisiana. The work was published eight years before the Civil War by Derby & Miller of Auburn, New York, soon after Harriet Beecher Stowe's best-selling novel about slavery, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852), to which it lent factual support. Northup's book, dedicated to Stowe, sold 30,000 copies, making it a bestseller in its own right. After being published in several editions in the 19th century and later cited by specialist scholarly works on slavery in the United States, the memoir fell into public obscurity for nearly 100 years. It was re-discovered on separate occasions by two Louisiana historians, Sue Eakin (Louisiana State University at Alexandria) and Joseph Logsdon (University of New Orleans). In the early 1960s, they researched and retraced Solomon Northup's journey and co-edited a historically annotated version that was published by Louisiana State University Press (1968). The memoir has been adapted as two film versions, produced as the 1984 PBS television movie *Solomon Northup's Odyssey* and the Oscar-winning 2013 film *12 Years a Slave*. Solomon Northup (July 10, 1807, or 1808-1863?) was an American abolitionist and the primary author of the memoir *Twelve Years a Slave*. A free-born African American from New York, he was the son of a freed slave and free woman of color. A farmer and professional violinist, Northup had been a landowner in Hebron, New York. In 1841, he was offered a traveling musician's job and went to Washington, D.C. (where slavery was legal); there he was drugged, kidnapped, and sold as a slave. He was shipped to New Orleans, purchased by a planter, and held as a slave for 12 years in the Red River region of Louisiana, mostly in Avoyelles Parish. He remained in slavery until he met a Canadian working on his plantation who helped get word to New York, where state law provided aid to free New York citizens kidnapped into slavery. Family and friends enlisted the aid of the Governor of New York, Washington Hunt, and Northup regained his freedom on January 3, 1853.... David Wilson, (born September 17, 1818, Hebron, New York, U.S.-died June 9, 1870, Albany, New York) American lawyer and author who collaborated with Solomon Northup to describe the latter's kidnapping and enslavement in *Twelve Years a Slave: Narrative of Solomon Northup, a Citizen of New York, Kidnapped in Washington City in 1841, and Rescued in 1853, from a Cotton Plantation near the Red River in Louisiana* (1853). Wilson attended Salem Washington Academy in Salem, New York, and graduated from Union College in Schenectady, New York, in 1840. He then

studied law with lawyer and future state senator Orville Clark in Sandy Hill (now Hudson Falls), New York, and later practiced law in Whitehall, New York.

12 years a slave by solomon northup: *Twelve Years a Slave: Narrative of Solomon Northup (AD Classic) (Illustrated)* Solomon Northup, 2014-05-18 Solomon Northup was born a free man in New York State. At the age of 33 he was kidnapped in Washington D.C. and placed in an underground slave pen. Northup was transported by ship to New Orleans where he was sold into slavery. He spent the next 12 years working as a carpenter, driver, and cotton picker. This narrative reveals how Northup survived the harsh conditions of slavery, including smallpox, lashings, and an attempted hanging. Solomon Northup was among a select few who were freed from slavery. His account describes the daily life of slaves in Louisiana, their diet and living conditions, the relationship between master and slave, and how slave catchers used to recapture runaways. Northup's first person account published in 1853, was a dramatic story in the national debate over slavery that took place in the nine years leading up to the start of the American Civil War

12 years a slave by solomon northup: *Solomon Northup - 12 Years a Slave* Solomon Northup, 2014-03 *Twelve Years A Slave* is subtitled *Narrative of Solomon Northup*, citizen of New York, kidnapped in Washington city in 1841, and rescued in 1853 from a cotton plantation near the Red River in Louisiana. This subtitle accurately describes the book which is entirely based on the true story of Solomon Northup as told to and edited by David Wilson. The book was published in 1853 and became a bestseller following *Uncle Tom's Cabin* which was set in the same kind of Louisiana cotton plantation that some of *Twelve Years A Slave* is set, but the book subsequently faded until the sixties and is now universally acclaimed following the award winning film. Solomon was born in 1808 to a father who had been a slave to the Northup family of Rhode Island but then freed and grew up in Minerva New York State. He married Anne who he had three children with and worked as a raftsmen, farmer and fiddle player. He gained a good reputation as a fiddle player and was tricked accepting an engagement that led to his kidnap and was subsequently taken to a slave market in Washington D.C. and then by ship to New Orleans in horrific conditions that resulted in the death of one of his fellow travellers. The injustice and indignity he suffered under a range of masters, some of whom beat him badly for alleging he was a free man, is accurately recounted in this truly remarkable story which relates the misery and inhumane treatment that so many slaves received in the South by their white masters. Finally through a Canadian abolitionist Solomon's plight was communicated to his family who struggled to locate him as no one knew him by his real name and he was being sold by one master to another but finally after 12 long years he was a free man again and reunited with his family. Whether you see the film or not, do not miss this unique and compelling narrative that captures the intensity of events, the characters and locations of Solomon Northup's enslavement.

12 years a slave by solomon northup: *12 Years a Slave* Solomon Northup, 2017-04-11 *12 Years a Slave Narrative of Solomon Northup* By Solomon Northup A Slave Narrative Solomon Northup (July 10, 1807 or 1808 - 1863?) was an American abolitionist and the primary author of the memoir *Twelve Years a Slave*. A free-born African American from New York, he was the son of a freed slave and free woman of color. A farmer and professional violinist, Northup had been a landowner in Hebron, New York. In 1841, he was offered a traveling musician's job and went to Washington, D.C. (where slavery was legal); there he was drugged, kidnapped, and sold as a slave. Many of the statements contained in the following pages are corroborated by abundant evidence-others rest entirely upon Solomon's assertion. That he has adhered strictly to the truth the editor, at least, who has had an opportunity of detecting any contradiction or discrepancy in his statements, is well satisfied. He has invariably repeated the same story without deviating in the slightest particular, and has also carefully perused the manuscript, dictating an alteration wherever the most trivial inaccuracy has appealed. It was Solomon's fortune, during his captivity, to be owned by several masters. The treatment he received while at the Pine Woods shows that among slaveholders there are men of humanity as well of cruelty. Some of them are spoken of with emotions of gratitude-others in a spirit of bitterness. It is believed that the following account of his

experience on Bayou Boeuf presents a correct picture of Slavery in all its lights, and shadows, as it now exists in that locality. Unbiased, as he conceives, by any prepossessions or prejudices, the only object of the editor has been to give a faithful history of Solomon Northup's life, as he received it from his lips. In the accomplishment of that object, he trusts he has succeeded, notwithstanding the numerous faults of style and of expression it may be found to contain.

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