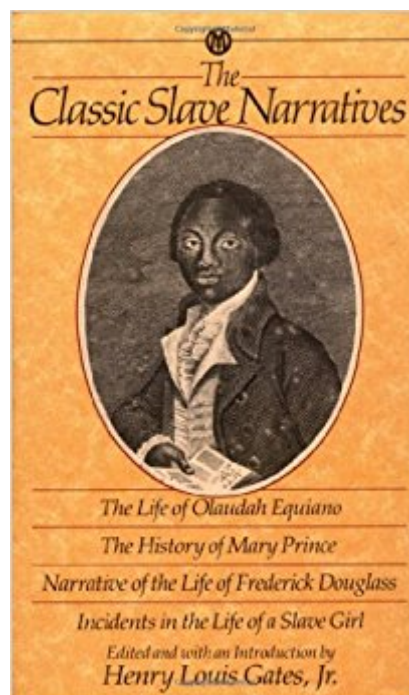


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The Classic Slave Narratives: The Life Of Olaudah Equiano / The History Of Mary Prince / Narrative Of The Life Of Frederick Douglass



Synopsis

These autobiographical narratives are the first texts in which black slaves began to proclaim themselves as human beings. The literature forms an intriguing personal tapestry, encompassing varied stories but inevitably depicting the horrors of human bondage.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. was Professor of English, Comparative Literature, and Africana Studies at Cornell University, and also tenured at Yale, Duke, and Harvard, where he was appointed W.E.B. DuBois professor of humanities in 1991. Professor Gates is the author of *Figures in Black: Words, Signs, and the Racial Self*, *Wonders of the African World*, *The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of African-American Literary Criticism*, *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Man*, *Loose Cannons: Notes on the Culture Wars*, and *Colored People: A Memoir*. With Cornel West, he co-wrote *The African American Century: How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Country and The Future of the Race*. He is also the editor of the critically-acclaimed edition of *Our Nig*, an annotated reprint of Harriet E. Wilson's 1859 novel, *The Slave's Narrative* (with the late Charles T. Davis), *Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African-American Experience*, *Six Women's Slave Narratives*, and *In the House of Oshugbo: Critical Essays on Wole Soyinka*. He is a recipient of the MacArthur Prize.

This collects some of the greatest and most important slave narratives. It includes the first known

slave narrative ever written by Olaudah Equiano (A.K.A. Gustavus Vassa). That was probably my favorite one out of all of them because it was very adventurous. It is also intriguing because it was the first narrative ever published from a Black person. All of these narratives are great, and you can really learn a lot about the history of slavery within the pages of this book. If you love reading black literature, you should definitely pick this book up.

Very moving and just kind of "tell it like it is". The writing style is very easy to read and understand. I had to purchase this for a college class, and found that I didn't have an easy time putting it down. Not for the very depressed or light of heart. Also, it's interesting to do some background research on the slaves in the narratives and see what happened to them and what happened to their owners.

Great literary work. The narratives have some passages where violence against slaves was inferred in their language. Given the time period, this was to be expected.

It is a nice compendium of the major primary sources (slave narratives) that are available. My major complaint is not content but that the binding is so crappy. It is tight and likely would break if you actually tried to hold the pages open.

I haven't finished the book as it is quite long but I am loving what I have read.

I'm so glad to have purchased this book!! I was a teenager during the Civil Rights Movement and there were little to no in-depth stories or articles about the lives/experiences of my ancestors during the slave years. Oh sure, we heard or read about such notables as Harriet Tubman, the 'Moses' of the Underground Railroad, Frederick Douglass, and George Washington Carver, and others, but this narrative gives the reader an insight into the lives of some of the obscure individuals, not mentioned in history books. This book or others similar should be read in addition to the history books about the founding of the United States.

Does what it's designed to do

Excellent book

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