

twelve years a slave by solomon northup

Twelve Years a Slave by Solomon Northup: A Harrowing Tale of Resilience and Freedom

twelve years a slave by solomon northup is not just a title; it's a powerful narrative that reveals the brutal reality of American slavery through the eyes of a free black man who was kidnapped and sold into bondage. This memoir, first published in 1853, offers an unfiltered glimpse into the cruelty, endurance, and hope that defined Northup's unforgettable journey. Whether you're a student of history, a lover of compelling biographies, or simply curious about this pivotal era, understanding the significance of Solomon Northup's story enriches our grasp of America's past and the ongoing struggle for justice.

The Story Behind Twelve Years a Slave by Solomon Northup

Solomon Northup was a free African American man living in Saratoga Springs, New York, with his family when his life took a tragic turn in 1841. Lured by a job offer as a musician, he was drugged, kidnapped, and sold into slavery in the Deep South. For the next twelve years, Northup endured unimaginable hardships on plantations in Louisiana, all while holding onto the hope of reclaiming his freedom.

This firsthand account stands out because it is one of the few narratives by a free man who was illegally enslaved. Unlike many other slave narratives of the time, Northup's story offers a unique perspective on the legal and social complexities of slavery, as well as the mechanisms that allowed free blacks to be abducted and sold into servitude.

Why Twelve Years a Slave is a Crucial Historical Document

The memoir serves as a vital historical document for several reasons:

- **Authenticity:** Written with the assistance of David Wilson, a white abolitionist, the book provides a detailed and credible account of slavery from a victim's perspective.
- **Legal and Social Insight:** Northup's story exposes the flaws in the legal system that failed to protect free African Americans.
- **Humanizing Slavery:** The narrative goes beyond statistics, presenting the human suffering and resilience behind the institution of slavery.

Because of these elements, *twelve years a slave by solomon northup* remains a key resource for scholars and educators, shedding light on a dark chapter of American history.

Key Themes Explored in Twelve Years a Slave by Solomon Northup

Northup's memoir delves into many profound themes that resonate even today. Understanding these themes can deepen one's appreciation of the text and its relevance.

The Struggle for Freedom

At its core, twelve years a slave by solomon northup is a story about the indomitable human spirit. Northup's relentless desire to regain his freedom fuels the narrative, reminding readers that liberty is a fundamental human right. His experience highlights how freedom was not guaranteed but fought for every day by enslaved people.

Injustice and Legal Failure

Northup's kidnapping underscores a critical failure of the legal system. Despite being a free man, he was denied justice due to systemic racism and corruption. His story exposes how laws were manipulated to sustain slavery and suppress African American rights.

Resilience and Hope

Despite brutal treatment, Northup's resilience shines through. His ability to survive twelve years of enslavement, maintain hope, and eventually secure his freedom is a testament to human endurance. Many readers find inspiration in his strength, perseverance, and faith.

The Impact of Twelve Years a Slave by Solomon Northup on Literature and Culture

Since its publication, twelve years a slave by solomon northup has influenced countless readers and shaped cultural understanding of slavery.

Revival through Film and Media

The memoir gained renewed attention following the 2013 film adaptation titled *12 Years a Slave*, directed by Steve McQueen. The movie won multiple Academy Awards and introduced Northup's story to a global audience. This adaptation brought emotional depth and historical accuracy to the screen, further cementing the memoir's place in popular culture.

Educational Importance

Many schools and universities include Northup's memoir in their curriculum as a primary source document. Its firsthand perspective helps students grasp the realities of slavery beyond textbook summaries. Moreover, it encourages critical discussions about race, justice, and human rights.

Exploring Solomon Northup's Life Beyond the Memoir

While *Twelve Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup focuses on his enslavement, exploring other facets of his life gives a fuller picture of the man behind the narrative.

Northup's Early Life and Skills

Before his kidnapping, Solomon Northup was a skilled carpenter, violinist, and farmer. His talents afforded him a comfortable life as a free man with a loving family. These skills also played a role in his survival during slavery, as he was sometimes hired out for specialized labor.

Advocacy and Later Years

After regaining his freedom, Northup became an active abolitionist, traveling and speaking out against slavery. Unfortunately, records of his later life are scarce, and his exact fate remains unknown. Nonetheless, his memoir continues to serve as a powerful tool for advocacy and education.

Tips for Reading and Understanding *Twelve Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup

Engaging with this memoir can be a profound experience. Here are some tips to enhance your reading:

1. **Consider the Historical Context:** Research the antebellum period to better understand the social and legal environment Northup faced.
2. **Reflect on the Emotional Weight:** Be prepared for graphic descriptions and emotional narratives. It's a difficult but important read.
3. **Compare with Other Slave Narratives:** Reading additional narratives like Frederick Douglass's autobiography can provide broader perspectives.
4. **Watch the Film Adaptation:** The *12 Years a Slave* movie complements the memoir and can deepen your understanding through visual storytelling.

Why Twelve Years a Slave by Solomon Northup Still Matters Today

More than a century and a half after its publication, *Twelve Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup resonates strongly amid ongoing conversations about racial inequality, justice, and human rights. It reminds us of the resilience required to overcome systemic oppression and the importance of bearing witness to history's darkest moments to prevent their repetition.

Northup's story is a call to remember and acknowledge the sacrifices and suffering endured by millions. It encourages empathy, education, and activism — qualities essential to building a more equitable society.

Reading *Twelve Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup is not just about understanding the past; it's about recognizing the continuing journey toward freedom and dignity for all people.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'Twelve Years a Slave' by Solomon Northup?

The main theme of *'Twelve Years a Slave'* is the brutal reality of slavery and the struggle for freedom. It highlights the inhumanity and injustice faced by enslaved African Americans in the 19th century.

Who was Solomon Northup and what is the significance of his memoir?

Solomon Northup was a free African American man who was kidnapped and sold into slavery. His memoir, *'Twelve Years a Slave,'* is significant because it provides a first-hand account of the horrors of slavery and the resilience of those who endured it.

How does 'Twelve Years a Slave' contribute to our understanding of American history?

The memoir offers a personal and detailed perspective on the institution of slavery in the United States, shedding light on the experiences of enslaved people and the social and legal systems that supported slavery before the Civil War.

What challenges did Solomon Northup face during his twelve years in slavery?

During his twelve years in slavery, Northup faced physical abuse, psychological trauma, forced

labor, and the constant threat of violence. He also had to navigate the complexities of slave society while holding onto hope for freedom.

How was 'Twelve Years a Slave' received upon its publication, and what is its legacy today?

Upon its publication in 1853, the memoir was widely read and helped fuel abolitionist movements. Today, it is regarded as a crucial historical document and has inspired films, discussions on race, and education about slavery's impact.

Additional Resources

Twelve Years a Slave by Solomon Northup: An Analytical Review of an Enduring Narrative

twelve years a slave by solomon northup stands as one of the most poignant and harrowing firsthand accounts of American slavery in the 19th century. This memoir, published in 1853, chronicles the true story of Solomon Northup, a free Black man from New York who was kidnapped and sold into slavery in the Deep South. The narrative offers invaluable insight into the brutal realities of slavery, the resilience of the human spirit, and the socio-political landscape of antebellum America. This article delves into the literary, historical, and cultural significance of *twelve years a slave by solomon northup*, contextualizing its impact through a detailed analysis.

Historical Context and Background

The memoir was written during a period when slavery was a divisive and incendiary issue in the United States. Solomon Northup's story illuminates the systemic injustices of the era, portraying not only the physical horrors endured by enslaved people but also the legal and social mechanisms that allowed such atrocities to persist. Northup's kidnapping in 1841 and subsequent enslavement for over a decade highlight the precarious nature of freedom for African Americans at the time, even in states where slavery was outlawed.

Northup's detailed descriptions of plantation life, the different roles enslaved individuals were forced into, and the psychological torment endured provide historians and readers with a nuanced perspective often absent from general histories of slavery. His narrative stands alongside other slave narratives, such as those by Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs, yet it is distinct in its account of a free man's forced descent into bondage.

Literary Significance and Narrative Style

Twelve years a slave by solomon northup is not only a historical document but also a compelling literary work. Written in collaboration with David Wilson, a white lawyer and editor, the memoir employs a straightforward and unembellished prose style that enhances its credibility and emotional impact. Northup's voice is clear and direct, emphasizing factual recounting over dramatization, which lends an authenticity that resonates deeply with readers.

The narrative structure follows a chronological timeline, beginning with Northup's life as a free man, his abduction, the years in captivity, and eventual liberation. This progression creates a powerful arc of hope amidst despair. Moreover, Northup's ability to describe complex social hierarchies within slavery, including the varied personalities of slaveholders and overseers, adds depth to the narrative.

Comparison with Other Slave Narratives

While many slave narratives focus on the journey from slavery to freedom, *Twelve Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup is unique due to the author's initial status as a free man. This contrast underscores the vulnerability of African Americans, regardless of legal status, under the shadow of slavery. Unlike Frederick Douglass, who escaped slavery as a youth, Northup's experience highlights the brutal reality that freedom could be violently stripped away.

Additionally, Northup's account is distinguished by its meticulous detail about the geography and economy of slavery in Louisiana, offering insights into the cotton and sugar plantations' operations. This regional specificity enriches the broader understanding of slavery's varied manifestations across the American South.

Impact and Legacy in Modern Culture

The legacy of *Twelve Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup has transcended its initial publication, influencing generations of readers and scholars. Its resurgence in popular culture, particularly following the 2013 film adaptation directed by Steve McQueen, brought renewed attention to Northup's story and the broader narrative of American slavery. The film's critical acclaim and multiple Academy Awards reignited public interest and academic discussion around the memoir.

The book's continued relevance is evident in its use in educational curricula across the United States, where it serves as a primary source for understanding slavery's human impact. Moreover, its themes of injustice, resilience, and the quest for freedom echo in contemporary discussions about race relations, civil rights, and social justice.

Educational and Scholarly Value

For historians and educators, *Twelve Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup is an indispensable text. It provides empirical data through personal testimony that complements legal and economic records of slavery. The memoir's candid depiction of abuse, family separations, and the psychological toll of enslavement offers critical material for studies in African American history, literature, and human rights.

Scholars often analyze the memoir to explore the intersection of race, law, and identity in antebellum America. Northup's eventual legal battle for his freedom exemplifies the complexities of citizenship and human rights in a deeply divided nation.

Key Themes and Features of the Narrative

Several themes emerge prominently throughout *Twelve Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup, enriching its historical and literary substance:

- **Freedom and Identity:** Northup's struggle to reclaim his freedom highlights the fragile nature of Black identity in a racially oppressive society.
- **Injustice and Legal Ambiguity:** The memoir exposes the failures of legal systems that permitted kidnapping and enslavement of free African Americans.
- **Resilience and Survival:** Despite brutal conditions, Northup's determination to survive and maintain his dignity reflects the broader endurance of enslaved populations.
- **Human Cruelty vs. Compassion:** The narrative presents a spectrum of behaviors, from the cruelty of overseers to moments of kindness from fellow slaves and some white characters.

These themes are interwoven with vivid descriptions of daily life on plantations, including labor routines, punishments, and social dynamics. Northup's ability to document these aspects with precision offers readers a comprehensive understanding of slavery beyond abstract statistics.

Challenges and Limitations

While *Twelve Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup is lauded for its authenticity, some critics note potential biases due to the involvement of David Wilson in shaping the text. Additionally, as with many personal narratives, memory limitations and narrative choices may affect the precision of certain details.

However, these considerations do not diminish the memoir's overall value but rather encourage critical engagement with the text. Readers and scholars are urged to consider the memoir alongside other contemporary sources to gain a balanced perspective on the period.

Why *Twelve Years a Slave* Remains Essential Reading

In an era increasingly attentive to historical injustices and their legacies, *Twelve Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup remains a vital document for understanding America's past. Its raw and unfiltered portrayal of slavery provides a counterpoint to sanitized historical accounts, reminding audiences of the lived experiences behind the institution.

Furthermore, the memoir's narrative of kidnapping and enslavement challenges assumptions about freedom and security in antebellum America. It serves as a cautionary tale about the fragility of rights and the importance of vigilance against systemic abuses.

As the book continues to be studied, adapted, and referenced, it cements its place as a cornerstone of American literature and history. Its role in fostering empathy, awareness, and dialogue ensures that Solomon Northup's story will resonate for generations to come.

Twelve Years A Slave By Solomon Northup

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twelve 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.

twelve years a slave by solomon northup: Twelve Years a Slave Solomon Northup, 2012-07-31 Now the major motion picture that won the 2014 Academy Award for Best Picture, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michael Fassbender, and Lupita Nyong'o, and directed by Steve McQueen. 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. It recounts how Solomon Northup, born a free man in New York, was lured to Washington, D.C., in 1841 with the promise of fast money, then drugged and beaten and sold into slavery. He spent the next twelve years of his life in captivity on a Louisiana cotton plantation. After his rescue, Northup published this exceptionally vivid and detailed account of slave life. It became an immediate bestseller and today 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. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished

scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

twelve 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 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.

twelve years a slave by solomon northup: Solomon Northup's Twelve Years a Slave, 1841-1853 Sue Eakin, 1998-10-31 The retelling of Solomon Northup's true story is a valuable contribution to black history. Readers of all ages will enjoy . . . this important account. -Charles A. Hicks, former Arkansas state supervisor of education Solomon Northup's trials and tribulations are retold in such a way that young-adult readers will be totally captivated by his story. -Children's Literature Solomon Northup, a family man and hack driver in upstate New York, was kidnapped, whisked away from his home, and sold into slavery. His remarkable account of the epic journey from free man of color to slave to free man again is even more astonishing because it was written entirely from memory. As a slave, Northup was permitted neither pen nor paper, yet he was able to recall his ordeal in exacting detail. Considered one of the best firsthand accounts of the slavery experience, this autobiographical story, originally published in 1853, has been painstakingly rewritten for children aged eight through twelve. This story of perseverance presents to children a personal side of the often-detached history of slavery. Sue Eakin, who interpreted the story for a younger audience, saw her first copy of Solomon Northup's *Twelve Years a Slave: 1841-1853* when she was just twelve years old. Years later, as a graduate student at Louisiana State University, she chose the book as the topic for her thesis.

twelve 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.

twelve 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.

twelve 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.

twelve years a slave by solomon northup: *Twelve Years a Slave* Solomon Northup, 2015-12-01 *Twelve Years a Slave* is the immensely popular memoir of Solomon Northup, a free-born African-American who was kidnapped in Washington, D.C. in 1841 and sold into slavery. He toiled on plantations in Louisiana under the harshest of conditions until his release in 1853. The 2013 film was a runaway box office success, and picked up three Academy Awards, including Best Picture. The original memoir, digitally reproduced here, makes for fascinating reading. Sayre Street Books offers the world's greatest literature in easy to navigate, beautifully designed digital editions.

twelve years a slave by solomon northup: *Twelve Years a Slave by Solomon Northup* Solomon Northup, 2018-03-12 *Twelve Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup

twelve years a slave by solomon northup: *12 Years a Slave* Solomon Northup, 2022-11-13 In *12 Years a Slave*, Solomon Northup delivers a harrowing autobiographical narrative that details his

abduction and enslavement in pre-Civil War America. With an unflinching literary style characterized by vivid imagery and poignant reflections, Northup captures the brutal realities of slavery while also presenting a deeply personal account of resilience and the quest for freedom. His meticulous documentation of the systemic injustices faced by enslaved individuals situates the work within both historical accounts and the burgeoning abolitionist literature of the era, making it a critical text in understanding America's complex racial history. Solomon Northup, a free African American born in New York, was a skilled carpenter and violinist before he was kidnapped in 1841 and sold into slavery. His unique background and experiences provided him with the sagacity to discern the moral and social implications of his plight. Northup's journey through various plantations, coupled with his quest for justice, reflects not only his indomitable spirit but also the broader struggles faced by countless enslaved people, echoing the urgent call for social reform of his time. This seminal work is essential reading for anyone seeking to grasp the historical realities of American slavery and the human capacity for perseverance. Northup's profound insights and eloquent prose illuminate injustices often overlooked in broader narratives. *12 Years a Slave* serves not only as a testament to one man's experience but also as a powerful reminder of the importance of human rights and dignity.

twelve years a slave by solomon northup: *Twelve Years a Slave*. Narrative of Solomon Northup Solomon Northup, 2014-08-25 *Twelve Years a Slave* (1853) is a memoir and slave narrative by Solomon Northup.

twelve 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.

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twelve 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

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twelve years a slave by solomon northup: Solomon Northup David Fiske, Clifford W. Brown Jr., Rachel Seligman, 2013-08-12 A companion to the classic African-American autobiographical narrative, *Twelve Years A Slave*, this work presents fascinating new information about the 1841 kidnapping, 1853 rescue, and pre- and post-slavery life of Solomon Northup. *Solomon Northup: The Complete Story of the Author of Twelve Years A Slave* provides a compelling chronological narrative of Northup's entire life, from his birth in an isolated settlement in upstate New York to the activities he pursued after his release from slavery. This comprehensive biography of Solomon Northup picks up where earlier annotated editions of his narrative left off, presenting fascinating, previously unknown information about the author of the autobiographical *Twelve Years A Slave*. This book examines Northup's life as a slave and reveals details of his life after he regained his freedom, relating how he traveled around the Northeast giving public lectures, worked with an Underground Railroad agent in Vermont to help fugitive slaves reach freedom in Canada, and was connected with several theatrical productions based upon his experiences. The tale of Northup's life demonstrates how the victims of the American system of slavery were not just the slaves themselves, but any free person of color—all of whom were potential kidnap victims, and whose lives were affected by that constant threat.

twelve 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.

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