

# **LETTERS FROM A SLAVE GIRL - THE STORY OF HARRIET JACOBS BY MARY E. LYONS**



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# LETTERS FROM A SLAVE GIRL - THE STORY OF HARRIET JACOBS BY MARY E. LYONS PDF

- Sales Rank: #7498981 in Books
- Published on: 1996
- Binding: Unknown Binding

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7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

"A great novel to share. It will make you cry!"

By A Customer

Letters from a Slave Girl: the Story of Harriet Jacob by, Mary Lyons Imagine being in an attic for seven long years of your life with no one to talk to and nothing to do except write in a journal. This is how Harriet Jacobs in the novel, Letters from a Slave Girl: the Story of Harriet Jacobs, feels. This historical fiction story is told through imaginary letters written by Harriet to her loved ones, which make this novel a fantastic piece of work. The author, Mary Lyons, takes us back to the slave era, where blacks were seen as inferiors to whites. She creates a female protagonist who is filled with such bravery and excitement, which makes her character seem so realistic. She tells this powerful story in such great detail that it leaves a trail of tissues behind. Harriet Jacobs, a slave who is seeking freedom from her mistress's father, Dr. Norcum, after being harassed verbally and physically, runs away to claim her freedom. She escapes to the attic of her grandmother's house for seven long years of her life. In the attic she has to be quiet, and is unable to move around. In the winter she freezes, and in the summer she is blistering hot. She has nothing else to do all day, except write in her journal, where she expresses her feelings since she has no one to confide in. Later she escapes to the North, where she plays an active role in helping slaves escape to the "free states." She also writes an autobiography of her life as a slave and the dreadful life she lives. She wanted to make a difference in the world, and didn't want anyone to go through the pain and suffering that she went through. This novel portrays the fact that when people go through a miserable experience in life, they try to prevent the same thing from happening to others. In this book, Harriet is petrified of Dr. Norcum, and after enduring all the pain and suffering brought on by slavery, she decides to run away to escape from all her pain, and Dr. Norcum's controlling ways. When she escapes to the "free states" she joins an abolition movement to prevent slavery. Harriet is so full of passion and perseverance, so full of fire, it gives this book its zing. Harriet is a heroine striving against a backdrop of actual events, and real characters. She reveals underlying truths in the sad histories of many slaves. This book reveals the inhumanity suffered by our ancestors. Displayed by the fictitious letter this story is written so you can successfully experience the sentimental value, which the slaves portrayed. Your emotions will run wild from anger and excitement to sadness and fear. One minute you will be sitting on your bed reading, and the next, you will be running through the woods with Harriet trying to escape to the "free states." Letters from a Slave Girl: the Story of Harriet Jacob's is a fantastic achievement. It successfully expresses the emotions that people felt in the slave era. You will fear and cry right along with the characters as though you were right there with them! This historical fiction novel is a rewarding book that will teach and inspire!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A great book reviewed by Ben Dover aka BCG

By A Customer

Letters from a Slave Girl

The story of Harriet Jacobs

Many people today have no idea about what it feels like to be a slave or to live in hiding or to fight for freedoms we barely recognize today. However, reading this historical fiction by Mary E. Lyons will give you a small amount of insight into the pain, courage, and triumphs of an ordinary slave but extraordinary person. Harriet Ann Jacobs was by some measure a normal slave in the small town of Edenton, North Carolina in 1825. Harriet was special though, because her first master taught her how to read and write. Therefore, the story is written from Harriet's point of view in the form of letters she wrote to her family and friends but kept to herself. I think this is neat because the book contains the black dialect and even spelling mistakes made by Harriet.

Harriet sadly lost her mother and father at a young age. Many of her first letters were written to them. Sadly, Harriet was sold to a mean master, Dr. Norcom, who would later sexually harass her. To cope with this pain, Harriet had sexual relations with another white man, Samuel Sawyer, and had two children, Joseph and Louisa. Harriet felt so threatened by Dr. Norcom she went into hiding under the roof of her Grandmother's house for seven long years. This was very difficult for Harriet, not being able to see her family and staying in a space so small she couldn't stand up. Harriet eventually made it to the free North escaping on a ship to Philadelphia. Harriet was joyfully reunited with her brother and children for a winter in Boston. Her dream of living free with her family finally came true. The rest of her years, Harriet was an activist for anti-slavery. She wrote the story of her life; *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* explaining the usually overlooked aspect of sexually abused slaves.

I enjoyed this book because it offered a different point of view into the world of slavery. This book made me feel as if I was really living the events that Harriet experienced. I would recommend this book to anyone looking for an unusual point of view on the hardships of slavery.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

ok book\_\_\_reviewed by S.Miller

By A Customer

The story, *Letters from a Slave Girl: The story of Harriet Jacobs* by Mary E. Lyons, tells about the life of a slave girl named Harriet Jacobs who was able to survive slavery. This book is dramatic at times and still very suspenseful. It tells about Harriet's hardships, her first love, and about the type of men she trusts and turns to in time of need. Harriet's family is very important to her, as it is obvious in this book. Harriet turns to her family more than anyone else in this book. They are the only ones she knows she can come to at any time.

Harriet was harassed by one of her owners when she was about 14 years of age. He wouldn't actually touch her or threaten to touch her till she was older. Harriet met her first love R at a dance. They were in love at first sight and wanted to be together all the time. When R was finally free he asked Harriet to marry him. When Harriet asked Dr. Norcom for his permission he said if she wanted to be married she would have to marry one of his slaves. Just to make Harriet miserable he said if he ever found out whom she wanted to marry, he would have him shot down in the very spot he stood. Harriet, afraid for R's life, told him to go away and have a good life. Harriet then met a man who said that he would offer her any attention she needed. His name was Samuel Sawyer. Harriet went to him and had sex with him. She was using him as a sort of protection. Also she thought he might be able to help her find freedom. Turns out that Samuel Sawyer and Dr Norcom aren't good friends because of something happening a long time ago. When Harriet found out that she was pregnant she told Dr Norcom that she was pregnant she finally won a battle, but the war was not won yet.

I think this is an ok book, but I wouldn't suggest it to people who are looking to an interesting book. But this is an ok book to read in school.

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