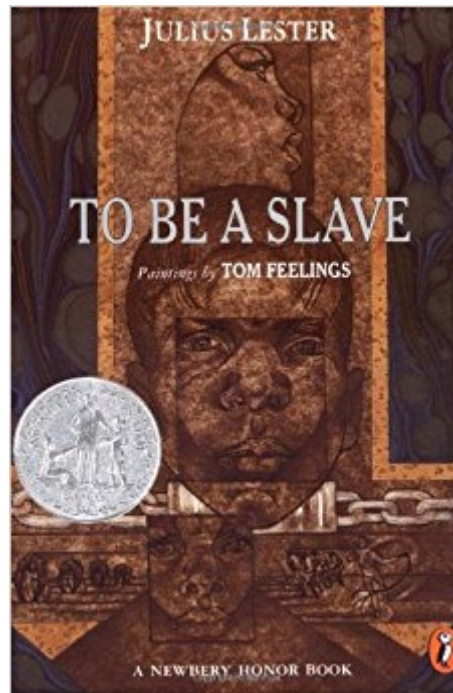




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To Be A Slave



Synopsis

A Newbery Honor Book What was it like to be a slave? Listen to the words and learn about the lives of countless slaves and ex-slaves, telling about their forced journey from Africa to the United States, their work in the fields and houses of their owners, and their passion for freedom. You will never look at life the same way again. "The dehumanizing aspects of slavery are made abundantly clear, but a testament to the human spirit of those who endured or survived this experience is exalted." —*Children's Literature*

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When Julius Lester was nine years old, his father told him, "Our family tree ends in a bill of sale. Lester is the name of the family that owned us." This was the defining moment that set young Julius Lester on a search of the past to understand his family history and the indignity of slavery. In the early 1960's, Mr. Lester's wife introduced him to black history. He discovered a book by B. A. Botkin called *Lay My Burden Down*, which told the story of slavery through the words of people who had been slaves. Soon Mr. Lester was pouring over documents from the Library of Congress to find stories of slaves in hope of finding a record by his own great-grandparents. His search would lead to passion that would spark several books on slavery. *To Be A Slave*, is the history of slavery told by actual slaves in their own words. The stories begin with the capture of blacks in Africa and their transport to America. The stories continue to after slaves are given their freedom at the end of the Civil War and relate the obstacles that continue until the time their stories were collected in the 1930's. These stories tell of the hardships of slavery, from poor housing, insufficient food and

clothing, ill-treatment, and the separation of families. They show the hero like worship of white owners by some slaves, and the hatred of white owners by others. Some stories tell the ingenuity of slaves to do what was required, but often manage to outwit their owners by playing dumb. Other stories show the jubilation and celebration of their freedom from slavery by Northern soldiers. Ending stories tell of the disillusionment of suffering of former slaves when they are forced to depend on former white owners to physically survive after the Northern soldiers go home. How they are often forced to become sharecropper and often cheated of their crops or wages, instead of being provided with opportunities to own their own farms and become independent. Former slaves also tell of the rise of the Ku Klux Klan and the horrors and misfortune of being treated as an inferior race. This is an important book with the stories of former slaves that you will not soon forget. These stories help us as Americans to understand some of the reasons and frustrations that lead to today's misunderstandings and difficulties with black and white relations.

We didn't have time to go searching for the book before the report. Great price. It is so great to be able to use our Kindle.

This book was recommended by a relative who had read it and told me about some of the events in the book. I had read other books to learn about the horrors of slavery so I wanted to read this one. This is the first time I've read actual facts that are stored in the Library of Congress. I enjoyed this book even though I had to put it down at times because of some of the horrible things that were done to the slaves who are my ancestors. I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in learning about the horrors of slavery.

This is a book that should be read by every American citizen. It is reality and a part of our history that brought us to where we are today. This story could generate guilt and shame OR it could energize us to realize our ancestors role in slavery and work every day to obliterate racism from our society!! Makes me wonder.... things have changed, but are attitudes very different?

So many truths in this book. So many raw, unadulterated truths. White people have no idea what happened during those slave years. We know what we read on paper. But all we really know is our pristine white past. Read this book.

I first read this book in 3rd grade--and read it multiple times throughout my childhood--and on into

adulthood. It is the book I could never get away from. It had such a longstanding impact on my life. These true stories are brutally honest---presenting a view of humanity that is rarely seen---from the violent to the victorious. Find this--Read this--Share this.

I brought this book for me, but it was so good and simplistic in writing style that I made it part of my son's reading list

While most of us are in sympathy with those who were slaves, this book should be read by everyone. Until we have actually "walked in the shoes (or not having any)" of fellow human beings, we just cannot know what they went through. To know what awful things were suffered with no hope of things ever getting better is what is difficult for us to imagine.

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