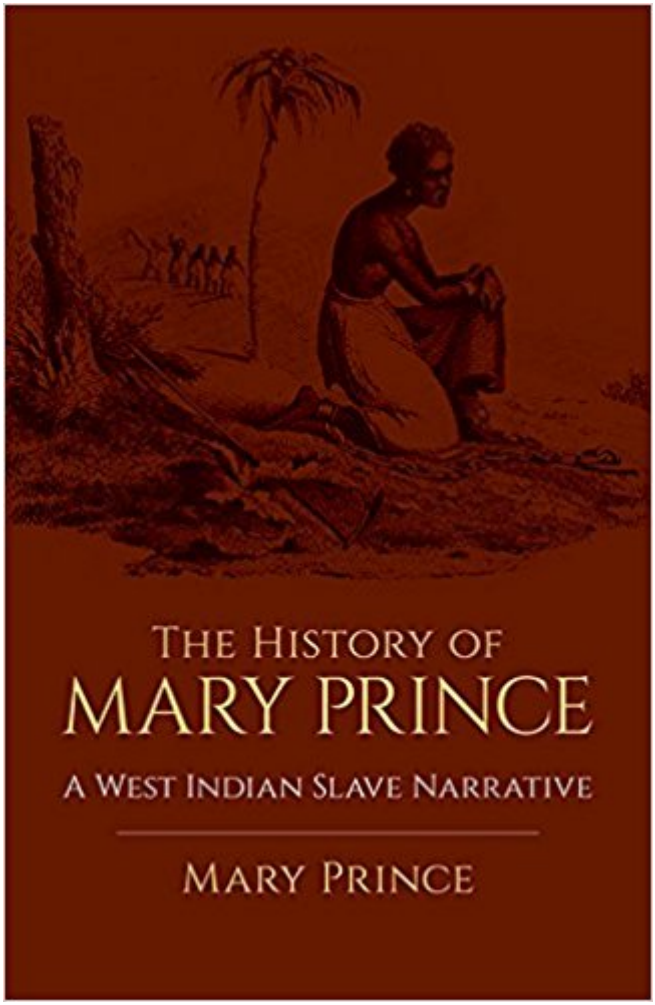
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The History Of Mary Prince: A West Indian Slave Narrative (African American)



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Synopsis

Born in Bermuda to a house slave in 1788, Mary Prince suffered the first of many soul-shattering experiences in her life when she was separated from her parents and siblings at the age of twelve. Subjected to bodily and sexual abuse by subsequent masters, she was bought and sold several times before she was ultimately freed.The first black woman to break the bonds of slavery in the British colonies and publish a record of her experiences, Prince vividly recalls her life in the West Indies, her rebellion against physical and psychological degradation, and her eventual escape in 1828 in England. Her straightforward, often poetic account of immense anguish, separation from her husband, and struggle for freedom inflamed public opinion during a period when stormy debates on abolition were common in both the United States and England.This edition also includes a substantial supplement by Thomas Pringle, the original editor, as well as another brief slave account: Ã¢â ¬Å“The Narrative of Asa-Asa, a Captured African.Ã¢â ¬Â•Essential reading for students of African-American studies, Mary PrinceÃ¢â ¬â„¢s classic account of determination and endurance aids in filling the many gaps in black womenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mary Prince (1788) was a Bermudian woman, born into slavery in Brackish Pond, which is now known as Devonshire Marsh, in Devonshire Parish, Bermuda. The published story of her slavery was the first account of the life of a black woman to be published in England and the book had a galvanizing effect on the anti-slavery movement. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

this is a good read but one must keep in mind the agenda of anti-slavery zealots.the new intro is informative and even admits the main problem with mary prince’s narrative.namely, that her account may have been embellished by anti-slavery society activists in england.this is another narrative, like the early narrative of venture smith that was "related by" the enslaved person.those types of narratives are always suspect of having been embellished. even so, it is an importantpart of the historical record - especially regarding enslaved women in british held islands in the caribbean.i will use in university level african diaspora history courses that i teach. i am interested in how studentswould compare prince’s narrative with linda brent’s (harriet jacobs) "incidents in the life of a slave girl".

Interesting cultural history but not much happens, and not written as well as some other personal histories of slavery. Still, worth reading to expand your understanding of how terrible the institution of slavery really was, and yet how people on both sides rose above it.

This is an excellent memoir, albiet painful to read in certain parts. This is a must-read for history buffs--particularly those interested in the Caribbean and the system of slavery in the British colonies.

Mary Prince dictated her history to a white woman in England, where she finally claimed her freedom after a life of horrendous abuse under several masters.Her narration is part of an anti-slavery pamphlet that contains other fascinating documents as well: a letter from her last master viciously defaming her character and a presentation of evidence to refute this calumny by Thomas Pringle, Secretary of Britain’s Anti-Slavery Society.Among other events, Mary’s history includes daily beatings by sadistic masters who, while entrusting her with considerable responsibility, punished the tiniest fault with insane cruelty. It describes her ten-year stint working long hours in the salt ponds of Turk’s Island, labor that broke her health. It shows her growing attraction to religion and her attempts to receive spiritual instruction.I found this book compelling on two levels: as a detailed personal account of the appalling oppression of black slaves in the West Indies - and as a look at the compassionate work of anti-slavery activists. Those who opposed slavery had to have their wits about them, for the slave owners were greatly debased by their unholy power over other humans and would stoop to any chicanery to defend their position.Mary Prince’s history triggered a lawsuit and countersuit when it was published in 1831. It was instantly in great demand by the public and was of great value to the Anti-Slavery Society in their campaign against

the slave trade.I recommend this book both as a classic of Black history and an unforgettable story.

This story should be mandatory for high school students (or even Jr High). First person true story of a slave.

An amazing read.

This book is a great primary source read that gives an in-depth image of the life of Mary Prince. From the transporting between colonies and England, to the violence endured, and being passed from family to family - Mary Prince remains hopeful of her situation and also for her future as a wife. The book directly engages the reader and provides not only information about the life of a Black female slave, but also humanizes Mary as a woman rather than just a slave as many accounts and even history tends to classify them as.

Lets say the story of Mary Prince reflects the woman’s personality perfectly. I like the book.

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