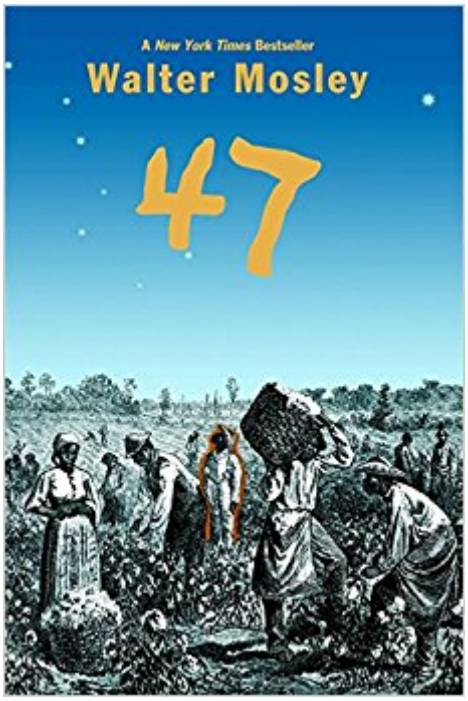
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Synopsis

New York Times Bestseller"Engaging." --Publishers Weekly, starred reviewMaster storyteller Walter Mosley deftly mixes speculative and historical fiction in this daring New York Times bestselling novel, reminiscent of Colson Whitehead's The Underground Railroad.47 is a young slave boy living under the watchful eye of a brutal slave master. His life seems doomed until he meets a mysterious runaway slave, Tall John. 47 finds himself swept up in a struggle for his own liberation.

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 72 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #44,974 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 19th Century #47 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Prejudice & Racism #139 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends

Customer Reviews

Grade 7-10Ã¢â ¬â œThe intense, personal slave narrative of 14-year-old Forty-seven becomes allegorical when a mysterious runaway slave shows up at the Corinthian Plantation. Tall John, who believes there are no masters and no slaves, and who carries a yellow carpet bag of magical healing potions and futuristic devices, is both an inspiration and an enigma. He claims he has crossed galaxies and centuries and arrived by Sun Ship on Earth in 1832 to find the one chosen to continue the fight against the evil Calash. The brutal white overseer and the cruel slave owner are disguised Calash who must be defeated. Tall John inserts himself into Forty-seven's daily life and gradually cedes to him immortality and the power, confidence, and courage to confront the Calash to break the chains of slavery. With confidence, determination, and craft, Tall John becomes Forty-seven's alter ego, challenging him and inspiring him to see beyond slavery and fight for freedom. Time travel, shape-shifting, and intergalactic conflict add unusual, provocative elements to this story. And yet, well-drawn characters; lively dialogue filled with gritty, regional dialect; vivid

descriptions; and poignant reflections ground it in harsh reality. Older readers will find the blend of realism, escapism, and science fiction intriguing.Ã¢â ¬â œGerry Larson, Durham School of the Arts, NC Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 7-10. In his first YA book, acclaimed mystery writer Mosley tells a stirring story of escape from slavery in which sf and African American myth blend with the realism of plantation brutality and the courage of resistance. A boy today remembers himself as a 14-year-old slave named 47, living in Georgia in 1832. He recalls being chained, branded, and whipped until the runaway Tall John inspires him to fulfill his destiny and lead his people to freedom. Like the mythical figure High John the Conqueror, the runaway comes from "beyond Africa," and he shows the boy the secrets of the universe. Above all, 47 takes in Tall John's repeated lesson ("Neither master nor nigger be"), which is finally what sets him free. The magical realism allows for some plot contrivance, but Mosley brings the harsh facts and anguish very close, and the first-person narrative shows and tells how "slavery is the most unbelievable part of this whole story." Hazel RochmanCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I am not sure what to say about 47. It is a very good book, but as I read it, I kept expecting it to be better. I am a huge Walter Mosley fan, so maybe my expectations were too high. I wanted a young adult novel dealing with slavery to knock my socks off or leave me speechless. I think Mr. Mosley did a great job describing the propaganda/brainwashing that was so prevalent in the south and an even greater job of explaining how evil that kind of thinking was. I found the characters interesting but kind of one dimensional. The science fiction aspect was an original twist that may attract readers who normally avoid historical fiction. I will read the sequel, if there is one, to see if the second book is more powerful.

Another side to Walter Mosley. Fiction; but filled with truth and lessons. Was it coincidence that I read this book in February. Maybe not!

This was a fairly good book, very different from the books that I have read from the author. It gave some insight into slavery and the sci-fi added a nice little touch. The end definitely leaves you wanting a follow up book. I would have given it five stars had it not sped up at the end and felt

rushed. Yes I would recommend this book it is a really good read.

This book has been stolen from me about 5 times over the years. I was so NOT mad every time it went missing. My students love it. I read it to them and discuss how they feel and it’s implications for human rights. Mosley needs to do more children’s work.

Both of my sons enjoyed this book tremendously. This is a difficult subject matter to read about, but the fantasy/science fiction element made it easier and gave the boys hope when they were felling sad. A very thought provoking read. I recommend parents read it also to answer questions and have a open discussion about some of the events. Some use of offensive language so be prepare. Highly recommended for those (apx 11 years old and older) ready.

Such a display of imagination. And the way that creativity was woven into history and simultaneously theology. I certainly hope there is a subsequent chapter.

I think this was a great read wonderful story line. Love anything Walter Mosey books. Wish the book were a little longer.

I have read many of Mosely’ s other novels, most notably the Easy Rawlins series. I was drawn to "47" as a different expression of Mosely’ s unique literary talent. I was not disappointed. "47" is a slave narrative that pulls no punches on this descriptive tale of historical bondage . The brutality and inhumanity only strengthens the intensity of the triumph of the human spirit. Mosely has revisited a time seen so often in black and white. He has added Technicolor .

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