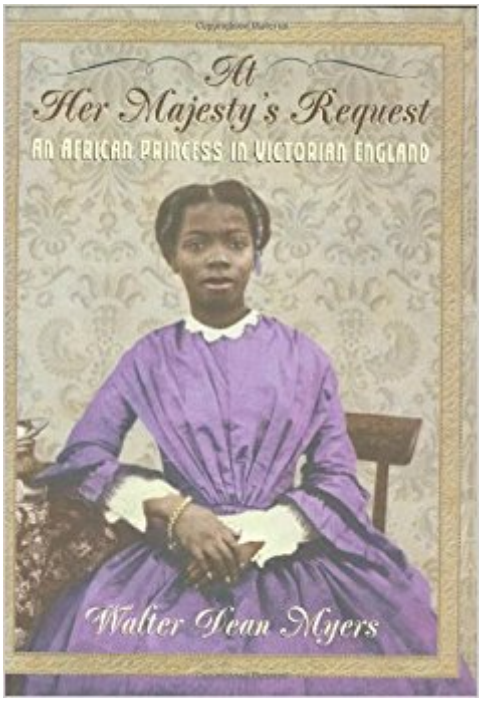
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At Her Majesty's Request: An African Princess In Victorian England



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Synopsis

Biography of the African princess saved from execution and taken to England where Queen Victoria oversaw her upbringing and where she lived for a time before marrying an African missionary.

Book Information

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Lexile Measure: 1070L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 160 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 33 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #725,034 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Africa #291 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Europe #904 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Short Story Collections

Customer Reviews

Once there was a little girl--an orphaned African princess--who narrowly escaped death by human sacrifice in a West African village in 1850. A British sea captain named Frederick E. Forbes saved her life by talking King Gezo of Dahomey into giving the girl to Queen Victoria of England as a gift: "She would be a present from the King of the blacks to the Queen of the Whites." As impossible as this tale sounds, it is a true one. Award-winning author Walter Dean Myers--piecing together her story from letters he found in a rare book and ephemera shop in London--paints a hauntingly detached portrait of the small African princess whom the heroic captain named Sarah Forbes Bonetta. We follow her charmed but unlucky life as the Queen's protÃƒÂ©gÃƒÂ©e through a succession of British middle-class households, beginning with the Forbes home. Because of her celebrated association and frequent visits with the Queen, Sarah grows up in an unusual position of privilege, education, and celebrity. On the flip side, she is keenly aware that her decisions are not her own, and as a rescued orphan under the Queen's protection, her life's path is dictated by those acting in what they perceive to be her best interests. It is hard not to feel that it was cruel of her

protectors to wrench her (more than once in her life) from the adopted family she adores, and eventually to encourage her to marry a West African businessman whom she clearly stated she could never love, and who would take her away from her adopted country. As the epilogue states, "She was both unfortunate in her losses, and fortunate that those losses were not greater.... She seemed to find a measure of comfort wherever she was, but was destined to be apart from the world in which she lived." This story, rich with historic prints, photographs, newspaper clippings, excerpts from Queen Victoria's diary, and Sarah's letters, is both fascinating and tragic. We have Myers to thank for rescuing this fine woman again--this time from the forgotten shelf of a London bookstore. (Ages 11 and older)

Gr. 5^-8. Myers pieces together bits of history and letters to form a unique and dramatic mosaic: the life of Sarah Forbes Bonetta, a seven-year-old African (Egbado) princess saved by an English naval officer from a rival tribe's ritual sacrifice in 1850. Sarah is brought to England, where Queen Victoria puts the girl under her protection until Sarah's marriage. The queen also acted as godmother to Sarah's first child and met and corresponded with Sarah throughout her life. Through Sarah's story, Myers offers insights into Victorian attitudes and society and examines the flow of people and ideas between England and Africa during the period. The inclusion of passages from Sarah's correspondence helps bring her to life, and Sarah's photo on the jacket brings readers face-to-face with this remarkable young woman. An intriguing biography as well as an unusual source for those interested in British or African history. To be illustrated with reproductions of photographs and documents. Carolyn Phelan

Thought this book was no longer available. It's the true story of Queen Victoria's African godchild. There are pictures of her growing up in Windsor Palace and taking carriage rides with all the royal family. She was about to be cooked in pot for a very special ceremony when a missionary saved her. This story is a beautiful testimony to providence.

One of the most intriguing stories buried in history. Thanks to Walter Dean Myers, we now have plenty of room to explore more about this woman and her relationship to Queen Victoria and European royalty. Also, it offers a glimpse into the thoughts of Queen Victoria that has never been discussed in traditional classrooms. Our children's book club loved it!!!!

I have had nothing but great service from when ordering the many books I have read thus far. I also

use very often when purchasing other items. Anyone can have great confidence in .When I received this book, I sat down right away and began to read because it really caught my attention. I read it within that same day. The story of that little princess was very very interesting and that little girl was a wonderful person as she grew into an adult. I am sure there are many like her and wish there were more benefactors to help them.

As a Yoruba woman myself, I loved this book. I loved the insight into a life lived way before mine but with the same challenges of youth. I loved that the story is real. I bought another copy for my 17 year old cousin and she loves it. She said she got a lot of inspiration from it.

In a book shop in England the author buys the letters that become the source material for this biography. The African Princess' handwriting appears on the end papers of the book. The astonishing circumstances of how a baby girl is freed from a cage in Africa, brought to England, and becomes Queen Victoria's protegee is well-documented.

At Her Majesty is a beautiful story put together by the author. This is another story worth investigating being a Nigerian, and Sara Forbes Kinsman. The story is an indication of what happened in this part of Africa that time, and should be a material for historical research. Sara's life in Queen Victoria's Palace, and how she was rescued from King Gezo of Dahomey is worthy of note. I will make this book a best seller any day.

A must read for anyone wanting to know some of the intimate social details of Victorian society. Written beautifully for young people, but readable for an adult. Unusual and compelling story of a courageous lady.

Very good read!

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