



Sojourner Truth: American Abolitionist

W. Terry Whalin

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The first black woman abolitionist, Sojourner Truth was born and raised a slave. Yet she would devote her life to the struggle for black freedom, traveling widely through New England and the Midwest on speaking tours after receiving, in 1843, a command from God to preach.

Sojourner Truth: American Abolitionist Details

Date : Published May 1st 2013 by Barbour Books (first published February 1st 1997)

ISBN :

Author : W. Terry Whalin

Format : Kindle Edition 210 pages

Genre : Biography, History, Nonfiction, Christian



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From Reader Review Sojourner Truth: American Abolitionist for online ebook

Sha says

I read Sojourner Truth: American Abolitionist. I believe the author's purpose in writing this book was to tell the story of an African American woman with a strong faith and will to fight against the mistakes the government was making with her people. Sojourner was a woman with a huge faith in God and he led her through all the challenges she faced trying to make a change in the world. Like when the angry mob of people were coming to attack her she trusted that God would pull her through. She raised her hands to the sky and sang a song and they stopped. No one hurt her at all in fact they even listened to what she had to say with great enjoyment.

The theme of the book is that if you believe in something and have faith in yourself to see it through you can do anything. She believed that slavery would end and she fought for that cause her whole life. She went to meetings to talk about how wrong slavery was and sang for the people there too. She made them listen with that sweet voice and the huge amount of wisdom she had too. She got to see slavery end, that cause that she had ever so fought for had finally happened. She proved everyone wrong when they told her she was too old to go out and walk the roads. She helped make that dream that she had come true with hard work and dedication.

The style of the book was a narration. The author showed her life from when she was a young child to when she was a very old woman. The reader gets to see how her life played out and why it was that she chose to live like she did. She always from city to city, meeting to meeting, never staying in one place for very long. The style was effective because with this style the reader can truly understand what she went through and why she fought for this cause so much. Also the reader can see how strong her faith was and how she kept going even though so many doors were shut in her face. She had a lot of guts too. She went against strong people and still won.

My overall opinion of the book was that it was really good and I really liked it. Reading this book made me feel really motivated to do more with my life. She accomplished so much and she did so much good. It's really inspiring and her story was so touching. I wouldn't change anything about this book because if she wouldn't have gone through what she did she wouldn't have been the person she grew to be. A woman with a strong presence, faith, and will. I have read other books about slavery, but never one focused on a woman like this. The story was really refreshing to the things I normally read about slavery and the people that fought for freedom. A story that would be a shame to miss.

Joseph Leskey says

Not too bad, eh? I mean... I rather detest biographies (so I probably shouldn't read them??), but sometimes I read them anyway and I suppose that it was good as may be expected.

Jodie Huang says

Jodie Huang
12/29/14
Writing

Sojourner Truth: American Abolitionist Novel Review

“I have borne children and seen most of them sold into slavery, and when I cried out with a mother’s grief, none but Jesus heard me. And ain’t I a woman?” (back cover). Sojourner Truth: American Abolitionist by W. Terry Whalin is a historical biography about Sojourner Truth, an African-American woman born into slavery who eventually grew up to become one of the most famous female African-American abolitionists. She remains strong and brave throughout her whole life as she goes through several hardships. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and would recommend it to anyone ages 8-14 who are interested in history. A courageous character, her faith in God, and an intriguing plot all contribute to a well thought out novel. Throughout the book, Sojourner Truth (named Isabella before taking on a new name) stays firm and unafraid despite her unfortunate experiences. Firstly, as a slave, she was often beaten because she could not speak nor understand English. However, she vowed to never get beat again by working harder and trying to obey her masters’ orders perfectly. Secondly, her parents died when Isabella was only thirteen years old, traumatizing her; however, she managed to stay strong and continued working obediently for her owners. Lastly, when Isabella became an evangelist and abolitionist and changed her name to Sojourner Truth, she was often criticized for being black and fighting for antislavery and women’s rights. Regardless of these unfavorable events, Sojourner kept her head up and continued to stand her ground.

As the novel progresses, Sojourner became more involved with God. When one of her children was separated from her to work for another master, Sojourner filed a complaint and went to court to retrieve her son. She eventually won the case and thanked God for His answer and for freedom for her child. Later on, she became a Christian after having a conversation with God about the wickedness in her life. These events portrayed her becoming more and more faithful in God as she grows.

Furthermore, the story’s intriguing plot kept me interested. The novel was detailed and was focused on mainly Sojourner. The author described Sojourner’s actions and personality and made it seem as if I were in the book as well. Therefore, the novel’s plot kept me reading until the end.

All in all, Whalin’s Sojourner Truth: American Abolitionist is a book worth reading. Sojourner’s determination to never give up and her strong faith in God was touching. Reading about her life as a slave reminded me that African-Americans should never be segregated because of their color. I recommend this novel for anybody who enjoys reading about history.

Bre Teschendorf says

Oh my goodness, I really enjoyed this book.

I enjoyed both its depth and brevity. I was impressed that the author managed to present so much information in such a short and enjoyable narrative.

My eyes were really opened to many different aspects of U.S. history that I hadn't fully put together for myself and I was disgusted. I gained a fresh perspective of the plight of black people in the U.S. After understanding that it took 100 years to eradicate slavery (and then only by force, not by changing hearts and minds) and then another 100 years for the civil-rights movement to make headway towards (real - maybe) equality, again not by the real changing of hearts and minds but essentially by force, made me realize that there are more very real festering wounds that aren't healed than I had perceived, being from the northwest and feeling "far-away" from the areas. Call me blind! Equally so, the woman's rights-movement... geesh! What a long hard battle was fought for women to even be allowed to vote. And still to this day, equal pay is a dream!

Beyond that, of course, reading about Sojourner was truly awe-inspiring! What a woman! What a character! I appreciated the author's honest look at her life, her failings and simplicity (due to lack of education) mixed

with her tremendous strength and intellectual capacity (despite lack of education!)

I would not recommend this book to a really avid biography reader who wants to dig deeply into the life of someone like Sojourner. I would recommend it to anyone else. It was very enjoyable to read and, like I said, very thorough considering how short it is.

Tina Valdes says

Incredible work about a woman whose name is not nearly mentioned enough in history books (IMO) for the contributions she made toward the abolitionist and woman's suffrage movements. I have learned so much about her through this biographical writing -- she was truly a hero in her time and should be recognized today for her achievements.

Mary Thomas says

I enjoyed learning about Sojourner Truth's life. I really did not know much about her, other than hearing her name before. The book itself was a little dry and took awhile for me to get through, maybe because the chapters were kind of long.

Dale says

Good introduction to the life of a true American heroine

Sojourner Truth has always been one of my personal heroes. She was willing to stand up for what was right in a time when being a woman and being black and being an illiterate former slave were three strikes that took most people out of the public arena. Sojourner did more than stand up for herself - she thrived confronting slavery, advocating women's rights and proclaiming the Gospel of Christ.

Sojourner Truth: American Abolitionist does a pretty good job of telling her story, but it is not a particularly lively rendition. The facts of her life add punch on their own, but that is despite the writing.

My favorite Sojourner Truth quote comes from the year 1851, which is in response to a man who doubted women had the "strength" to deal with the responsibility of voting and being an active citizen: ...

Read more at: <http://dwdsreviews.blogspot.com/2011/...>

Kristina says

What an amazing woman and an amazing life. But I felt as if this book did not do her or her life credit.

Mikayla says

This book was farely good, I enjoyed the first half much better then the second because it seemed the second half was a tons of praise her but not really much about her, and the author put in what people said about her randomly which felt like a filler where he didn't want to write about what she was doing.

Emma Filbrun says

I have always loved reading biographies, especially if they are well-written. This one is. Sojourner Truth: American Abolitionist caught my attention from the first page and I enjoyed it all the way through. I'm glad I borrowed it when I saw it on a friend's bookshelf!

[Read my full review here.](#)

Caitlin says

Very good book and written wonderfully. Gave me such a great view on what she actually went through and her whole story. An interesting biography!

Danette says

Read to my children during "Lunchtime Books." The beginning was good but it seemed to get long & drawn out towards the end.

Eli Moreno says

This book shows the heart, strength, persistence, and courage of a woman who was mistreated and broken from a young age. Sojourner Truth rise'd from the ashes of slavery and mistreatment to a woman of high position and well respected. She inspires me to do what is right and to be humble. Sojourner truth story has had a great impact on my life and has made part of the person who I am today.
