



My Escape From Slavery

Frederick Douglass

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It was the custom in the State of Maryland to require the free colored people to have what were called free papers. These instruments they were required to renew very often, and by charging a fee for this writing, considerable sums from time to time were collected by the State. In these papers the name, age, color, height, and form of the freeman were described, together with any scars or other marks upon his person which could assist in his identification. This device in some measure defeated itself—since more than one man could be found to answer the same general description. Hence many slaves could escape by personating the owner of one set of papers; and this was often done as follows: A slave, nearly or sufficiently answering the description set forth in the papers, would borrow or hire them till by means of them he could escape to a free State, and then, by mail or otherwise, would return them to the owner. The operation was a hazardous one for the lender as well as for the borrower. A failure on the part of the fugitive to send back the papers would imperil his benefactor, and the discovery of the papers in possession of the wrong man would imperil both the fugitive and his friend. It was, therefore, an act of supreme trust on the part of a freeman of color thus to put in jeopardy his own liberty that another might be free. It was, however, not unfrequently bravely done, and was seldom discovered. I was not so fortunate as to resemble any of my free acquaintances sufficiently to answer the description of their papers. But I had a friend—a sailor—who owned a sailor's protection, which answered somewhat the purpose of free papers—describing his person, and certifying to the fact that he was a free American sailor. The instrument had at its head the American eagle, which gave it the appearance at once of an authorized document. This protection, when in my hands, did not describe its bearer very accurately. Indeed, it called for a man much darker than myself, and close examination of it would have caused my arrest at the start.

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Lane James:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Using book everyone in this world may share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their own reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only the story that share in the books. But also they write about the data about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors on this planet always try to improve their expertise in writing, they also doing some research before they write for their book. One of them is this My Escape From Slavery.

Susan Garrard:

Do you have something that that suits you such as book? The guide lovers usually prefer to choose book like comic, small story and the biggest an example may be novel. Now, why not striving My Escape From Slavery that give your pleasure preference will be satisfied by means of reading this book. Reading habit all over the world can be said as the opportunity for people to know world better then how they react to the world. It can't be explained constantly that reading habit only for the geeky man or woman but for all of you who wants to end up being success person. So , for all you who want to start reading as your good habit, you can pick My Escape From Slavery become your own starter.

Brandi Johnson:

Within this era which is the greater person or who has ability in doing something more are more valuable than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you must do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to possess a look at some books. One of many books in the top collection in your reading list will be My Escape From Slavery. This book which is qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking right up and review this publication you can get many advantages.

Chester Brown:

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