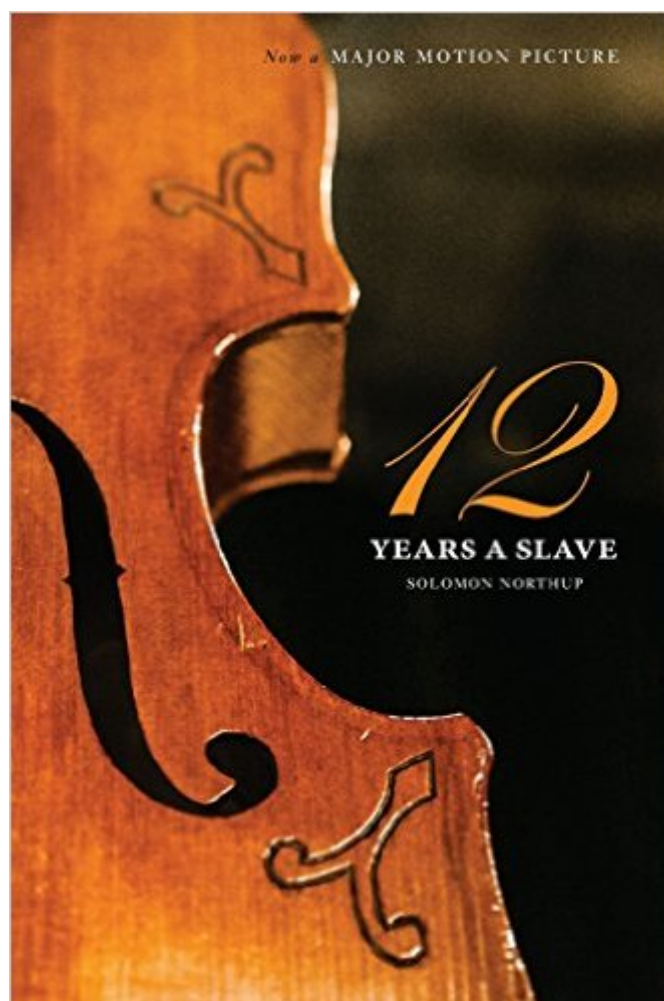


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# Twelve Years A Slave (the Original Book From Which The 2013 Movie '12 Years A Slave' Is Based) (Illustrated)



## Synopsis

Solomon Northup was born a free man in New York State. At the age of 33 he was kidnapped in Washington D.C. and placed in an underground slave pen. Northup was transported by ship to New Orleans where he was sold into slavery. He spent the next 12 years working as a carpenter, driver, and cotton picker. This narrative reveals how Northup survived the harsh conditions of slavery, including smallpox, lashings, and an attempted hanging. Solomon Northup was among a select few who were freed from slavery. His account describes the daily life of slaves in Louisiana, their diet and living conditions, the relationship between master and slave, and how slave catchers used to recapture runaways. Northup's first person account published in 1853, was a dramatic story in the national debate over slavery that took place in the nine years leading up to the start of the American Civil War.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (55 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Ok, so of course the heaviness of the book is nothing you would say is "good" to read about but it's very captivating. I saw the movie first and then became obsessed with finding out his whole story. I really wanted to know all that happened during his time being enslaved. The movie very closely mirrors the book with the exception of some details. Like, in the movie they don't tell you that the non-respected loser Tibbeats was Solomon's master after William Ford. Which had to suck because he was very hateful and was always trying to provoke Solomon or flipping out for absolutely no reason at all. I got a better idea of the characters from reading the book. The way Solomon talked

about Ford I could tell that he really had strong admiration for him and he definitely wasn't as bad a "master" as others that he would encounter. Michael Fassbender who played Edwin Epps did a great job in the movie but the book gives a very clear depiction (as a drunk, sadistic, crazy fool) of this Epps character and it's 10 times worse than the movie version of him. I would say if you want to know what really happened and what was going on in his head during his time down in Louisiana read this book. It will make you sad just like the movie because it's a very sad topic but I liked that it was Solomon's words telling me his story so it was worth the read.

Wonderful story that covers a part of slavery that went unheard of until now. Who knew that one could be considered free: yet the possibility existed that one could be kidnapped and made a slave anyway. 12 years a slave, 400 years of oppression and kidnapping to boot.

I read this for book club, but was cautious at first because the movie was so emotionally difficult to watch. I was better prepared for reading, and was able to learn details I had missed in the movie. I actually enjoyed reading something written in that era and the different style of writing. It found it particularly interesting because it was an actual account written by the unfortunate man who had to endure the experience.

A good somewhat autobiography about an everyday ordinary human being who was tricked and ambushed into a life of slavery. Because I am a truth seeker, the first hand experiences of Solomon Northrup life as a slave are true and rings clear as the reader will see from his writing style.

Excellent writing for the 1850s! Or any time! The author used court records after his return to tell exactly who helped him and how they found him. Wanted to compare the movie, which rarely deviated from the book. When a couple of extra things were added "it did not make sense." Also used scenes that were in the book but not explained in the movie.

See the film first and then read the book. You will realize what a wonderful adaptation it is and appreciate the finer details and seeing how the real-life characters were combined. Brilliant adaptation that film.

The movie intrigued me enough to purchase the book. I am so surprised by the eloquence of the speech of this man from the 1800's. Today's well educated youth don't have one half of his

vocabulary! Excellent read!

Parts of this book were so heartbreaking that I would stop reading and weep. The inhumanity of the "peculiar institution" is hard to comprehend. However, the devastation of it continues to have present day impact. Along with horrors unimaginable, this book speaks of redemption. The power of the human spirit to prevail in the most horrendous of conditions. The goodness available in human hearts to right an incorrigible wrong; to seek light and truth in the depths of darkness. This is not an easy read but it is a life changing one.

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