



Nobody's Slave

Tim Vicary

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Two boys meet on a voyage which transforms their lives.

Madu, a young African, is captured by the Elizabethan slave-trader, Sir John Hawkins. Tom Oakley is a young sailor in charge of the slaves. At first the two boys hate each other. But as the story develops their roles are reversed, and each comes to depend on the other more than either would have once thought possible.

This is a fast-moving adventure story based around real historical events. History as you never learned it in school!

Nobody's Slave Details

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Author : Tim Vicary

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From Reader Review Nobody's Slave for online ebook

Andrew says

I really enjoyed reading this book. I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the Transatlantic Slave Trade. This story is mostly for young adults and older. This book was really interesting because I got to learn a lot about the Slave Trade and its process. For example, I learned that the process is really rough for the slaves, and I also learned the process the slaves go through from Africa to America. It was really interesting because almost every other chapter is alternated between the red faced perspectives and the slaves perspective, which gives you an interesting view on the book due to the fact of seeing both the good and bad guys view on all of the situations. Overall I think that this book is really good because it gives you knowledge that you never really thought about, and also gives you ways to think about information in new ways.

Cindy Woods says

Pretty good

This is a close historically accurate account of an English expedition in mid 16th century to Africa to procure slaves. The two main characters, a young English sailor and young African tribesman, have their stories told from each of their vantage points. It is one of the better books written of this tragic and trade-off era.

The author made a substantial effort to 'be real' in describing the thoughts and actions of the characters involved in this story. Using historical records and diaries of the times, he has woven a plot that is interesting and educational while giving great insight to emotion. No one is spared tragedy and the greed of monarchies is exposed on all fronts.

The two youth involved change their thinking over a course of many month's time in land and sea.

I would highly recommend this emotionally charged book to readers of historical fiction.

Nathan Howard says

The novel Nobody's Slave dwells into the tale of an African child being abducted and taken away from his homeland in Africa to experience the horrors of being apart of the slave trade. Tim Vicary used his novel to highlight the perspective of becoming a slave and the struggles and hardships that come with it. The slave trade occurred between the 15th and 19th century, spreading to mainly North America, South America, and Europe. Through his characters, readers begin to understand what it is like to be a slave crammed up in the lower deck of the ship and being in the shoes of Madu and what he had to go through, whether the information they hear is accurate or not, and this often leads to discrimination. Tim Vicary explores this through the characters of Madu and Tom Oakley, who are both misjudged by their community, though for different reasons. There is one man, Admiral Hawkins, Who . As he says to his daughter, "You are nobodys slave"(196), reminding readers, too, that harming the innocent is never acceptable. In Nobodys Slave, Tim Vicary does a great job of bringing Madu and Tom together by telling the story and the perspective of the

two.

Tile.Aldo43 says

The book Nobody's Slave, by Tim Vicary, was an interesting book and it shows what the slaves had to face on the ships and their struggles when on the ships. The book portrayed many themes but the two that it portrayed most were the themes evil and loyalty.

To begin with, the book Nobody's Slave shows that slave trading in our history was evil and he showed this by the struggles that the slaves had to go through. For example, the slaves struggled when they transported them from one place to another with ships and the slaves struggled through this process because they were treated like animals by chaining them, forcing them to live in their waste, and many of them got sick and died. One quote that was said in the book shows that the slaves struggled on the ship. It was "He COULD have been hung, or keel-hauled, dragged underneath the keel of the ship..., but Madu did not know that". This quote shows the punishment slaves had if they did something wrong. Another quote shows that the slaves would rather have died rather than live like how they lived on the ships and this quote was "It is better to die in the fight than to live like this, caged like animals in your own filth". This quote is saying that the slaves would have rather had died when they were fighting the whites and the other tribe, semba, than to be captured and forced to live on the ships.

The book Nobody's Slave also shows that slave trading in our history was full of loyalty and the book showed this from the relationship with Madu and Tom. The loyalty between Madu and Tom and their friendship was throughout the middle and end of the book. Their loyalty towards each other helped each other escape from slavery and I think if they didn't have this, they would have still been in slavery or maybe even dead. For example, Madu helped Tom when he was captured by the spaniards by telling them that he knows him so he would get a higher position in slavery like working in the Master's house and they would later escape together and become free again. One quote that shows their loyalty with each other "I will help you escape, like I say. And I run with you, from here." This quote shows how loyal their friendship was with each other. Another quote that shows their loyalty towards each other is "They picked their way past the carts of Farmers bringing in food for the market, and slipped quietly off the road into the forest a mile inland. This quote shows how they escaped from slavery and how they used each other to do so.

In conclusion, Nobody's slave, by Tim Vicary, was a very interesting book that teaches the readers the perspective of the slaves and what they had to go through and their struggles. Also, It also teaches us that having a loyal friendship can help both sides just like it helped Madu and Tom escape from slavery and become free once again. I recommend you read this book if you are learning about the slave trade because it gives good explanation of what the slaves thought of the whites and also, what the slaves had to go through on the ships.

Phyllis says

This is the story of a slave ship, an African village and two boys becoming men, one English and one African. Their journey to the new world and what happens to them both when they arrive. It is based on actual events and people. Well written by Tim Vicary.

Emma says

This book is about a African boy and a sailor white boy becoming friends. They hate each other so much that they try to kill each other multiple times. The main character is Madu who was captured by European sailors, such as the other main character Tom. They don't like each other then soon realize they need each other more than they think.

When I received this book I was really excited to start reading. When I started reading it started interesting and then soon became boring. I did not like this book because it was more factual for the history major and less fictional for the student. Yes I know that it is a historical novel but it wasn't an exciting read. Overall, I would recommend this for adults and not for student's.

Andrea David says

Excellent historical fiction!

I had my high school World History class read this to get a better understanding of the complexities of this time period. I found it to be a well-written story that puts human faces and feelings on the horrors of slavery. Ultimately though, it is a story about friendship and understanding between two young men coming of age in a turbulent time in history.

chris smith says

An enjoyable read

An enjoyable and interesting read following the main characters personal development and changing fortunes. A microscopic look at a bigger story.

Andrew Barash says

This book is about an african slave named Madu and a European boy named Tom. At first Tom hated all African but later on in the book, his views changed. Towards the middle of the book, Tom and Madu cross paths and at first there was a lot of hatred. Towards the end of the book, through collaboration, Madu and Tom like each other. This book tells readers about the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and the mistreatment of slaves.

From the beginning to the end I loved the book. I thought there was a lot of action and interesting events. It also taught me a lot about the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. It showed me how mistreated the slaves were and how misunderstood they were in this time period. Nobody's Slave is defiantly a good book to read.

Linda Hall says

Not my usual type of book; but, I read it because I love historical books and it was a new perspective. I was curious about how the two young men in the story would interact and how their feelings and experiences compared. Usually, I can relate to the characters in a story but in this case, I couldn't imagine dealing with the things they had to and, I hated even reading about how horrific their experiences were! I believe that we all need to see or read about the past and the wrongs committed in the name of greed in order to hopefully prevent history from repeating itself!

Trose13 says

Nobody's Slave was about two very different boys from two completely different worlds that meet in a sad way. Throughout the book they both learn very valuable lessons that will shade away their ignorance and probably affected them for the rest of their lives. This book based off of a true story may spark your interest or it may not.

This book is a excellent read for a class but personally I would not read it for pleasure by myself, the book was quite long and hard to get into. At the beginning the book was very interesting and quite a page turner then it ended up to be boring and hard to turn and finish the book. The reason i say this is a good book to read as a class or in a book club/group. It can be interesting to some and easier to read the book with a others to keep you motivated and to have conversation about the book.

Nancy says

Taking 17 days to read this book is a record for me in 2018... the longest it's taken me to finish a book. The storyline was good, but it dragged. I got distracted and was more interested in finishing than what the author had to say. The beginning was promising. The middle dragged. The end picked back up. The sign of a good book for me is when I'm sad that it's ended, and when I have to sit with it for a minute before I can begin another book. With this book, I feel like I've run a marathon, and I'm glad to be done!

Catherine M Severi says

Eye opener of the American slave trade

The story was a eye opener of the capture and treatment of the African slave. The African was considered a commodity eager than a human being. There is a twist on the story once one young slave helps his captor. I recommend all ethnic groups to read and discover the cruel effects of slavery. No one in my family owned a slave or as servants. We are all born free and working to better ourselves.

Nadine Wiseman says

Eternal dilemma

Two believable and beautifully drawn characters take us convincingly through all the moral dilemmas of this huge issue. Who is really to blame? Who should take ultimate responsibility for the atrocities committed in the slavery "business"? How is that we captured, enslaved, beat and lashed other human beings and took them from their homes and families? Much of the talent, skill, industry and artistry in Europe and the USA is down to the descendants of slaves. This book is an excellent representation, via these two courageous boys, of both sides of the coin. Could a young lad like Tom be forgiven for believing everything inculcated in him - that slaves were little more than primitive animals? That they didn't feel pain or emotion the same as white Europeans? Or were they just telling themselves that? Either way, I cared so much about these two boys that throughout the book I swung from hoping for a realistic, cynical ending, and my blind hope that all would turn out well. I won't give it away, but the fact that I cared so much should tell you everything you need to know about this book.

Jenny Twist says

Madu and his friend, Temba, have gone into the jungle to catch a leopard. Madu has a plan which will let him catch the beast without sacrificing his goat. Right now it is the most important thing in his life. Tom Oakley, a nephew of Francis Drake, is on his first voyage. The ship is bound for Africa to pick up slaves.

Soon these two will meet and both their lives will be changed forever.

This is a very exciting and moving tale about the early slave trade. The story is fiction but the history is real. These are brutal times and human life is cheap. The action moves from Africa to South America where a twist of fortune turns the tables on the boys, making Madu the leader.

Tim Vicary's clear and fluent style is, as always, a delight to read and his research is impeccable. The world he presents is utterly believable, his characters live and breathe.

An emotional roller-coaster of a book.
