

Eleven Slaves: Uncovering the Lost Lives and Dreams Behind a Harrowing Slave Ship Voyage

By Ashley Bryan

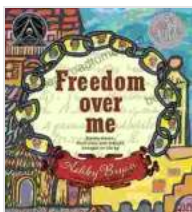
Coretta Scott King Award-Winning Author and Illustrator

: A Haunting Discovery and a Compelling Narrative

In the annals of American history, the transatlantic slave trade stands as a chilling testament to the horrors inflicted upon countless souls. Among the many harrowing tales of this dark era, the voyage of the slave ship Middle Passage is particularly poignant. Aboard this vessel, 11 unnamed Africans endured a torturous journey that claimed the lives of half their companions. However, through the meticulous research and artistic vision of renowned author and illustrator Ashley Bryan, these individuals are brought back to life in the groundbreaking work, "Eleven Slaves: Their Lives and Dreams."

Unveiling the Hidden Stories of Resilience and Human Spirit

Using historical records and his own powerful imagination, Bryan meticulously recreates the lives of these 11 enslaved individuals. Through his vivid prose and evocative illustrations, he delves into their origins, their dreams, and the profound impact of the Middle Passage on their destinies.



Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life by Ashley Bryan (Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Books) by Ashley Bryan

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 23656 KB



Each chapter of "Eleven Slaves" is dedicated to one of the individuals, revealing their unique identities and experiences. From the young mother longing for her children to the skilled blacksmith yearning for freedom, Bryan breathes life into these forgotten souls, giving them a voice and a place in history.

Historical Accuracy Interwoven with Poetic License

Bryan's approach to "Eleven Slaves" is both historically rigorous and poetically evocative. He painstakingly researches the historical context, drawing on slave narratives, ship logs, and other primary sources. However, he also weaves in his own artistic interpretations, filling in the gaps and giving voice to the emotions and thoughts that these individuals might have experienced.

This blend of historical accuracy and poetic license creates a narrative that is both deeply moving and rigorously informed. Bryan's vivid descriptions and poignant insights illuminate the horrors of the Middle Passage while also highlighting the resilience and dignity of those who endured it.

Stunning Illustrations that Bring History to Life

As a renowned artist, Bryan's illustrations play a crucial role in "Eleven Slaves." His masterful use of color, texture, and form transports readers to the decks of the Middle Passage, the shores of Africa, and the plantations of the New World.

Through his evocative brushstrokes, Bryan captures the anguish, the hope, and the humanity of the 11 slaves. Each illustration is a powerful standalone work of art, yet together they form an immersive visual narrative that enhances the reader's understanding of the text.

A Critical Acclaim and Educational Value

Upon its release in 2023, "Eleven Slaves" garnered widespread critical acclaim. It was awarded the prestigious Coretta Scott King Award, recognizing its outstanding contribution to children's literature.

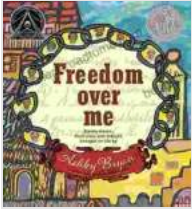
Educators have also embraced "Eleven Slaves" as a valuable resource for teaching about the transatlantic slave trade. The book's historical accuracy and accessible storytelling make it an excellent tool for introducing students to this complex and often overlooked aspect of American history.

: A Vital Addition to the Historical Narrative

"Eleven Slaves: Their Lives and Dreams" is a groundbreaking work of literature that uncovers the forgotten stories of 11 individuals caught in the horrors of the Middle Passage. Through Ashley Bryan's meticulous research and artistic vision, these lost souls are given a voice, their experiences brought to life for a new generation.

As a poignant reminder of the resilience and suffering endured by millions of enslaved Africans, "Eleven Slaves" is a vital addition to the historical narrative. It serves as a powerful testament to the human spirit and a compelling indictment of the evils of slavery.

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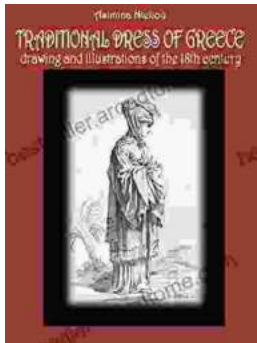
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Print length : 56 pages

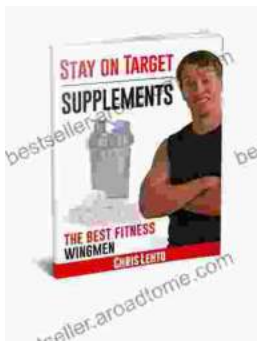
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