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Autobiography Of A Slave Autobiografia De Un Esclavo (English And Spanish Edition)



Synopsis

Juan Francisco Manzano (1797-1854), an urban slave who taught himself to read and write, and who ultimately achieved fame as a poet in Cuba's colonial slave society, wrote the only known autobiographical account of Latin American slavery. His narrative, composed in two parts, is a heart-rendering history of the systematic, unrelenting destruction of human dignity and individual will. It bears the marks of slavery, not merely by virtue of the countless oppressive autobiographical events and the cruel punishments that are narrated, but also because of its unorthodox syntax and orthography in the original manuscript, and the destruction of the second half of Manzano's history which "disappeared" mysteriously during his lifetime and has never surfaced since. In this first bilingual edition of the volume, Evelyn Picon Garfield provides a careful translation of Manzano's somber narration. Ivan Schulman introduces the text to place it in historical and cultural context.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read this book because it was required for my son to read during the summer. I was surprised! I didn't really understand Cuban history and reading the intro and content educated me on the history of Cuba. It is sad that Cuba has a history that is lost and unknown.

This is an excellent edition of an important work. The English translation is well done and the introduction is wonderful. Schulman provides useful and interesting background information as well as thought-provoking insights.

Excellent introduction. I also own a book entitled "Our Islands and its People" published by the US Government in the 1890's after the Spanish-American War. I've always considered this large expose' one of my library's most important treasures especially because of its early twentieth century photographs of the island, the folklore, the myths, and the traditions and superstitions of that era. Manzano's book will stand in another prominent spot in my collection of Cuban works. Thank you, Andrew J. Rodriguez

Award-winning author: "Adios, Havana," a Memoir

Received the item in great condition. The item came quickly and secured. I would recommend this seller.

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