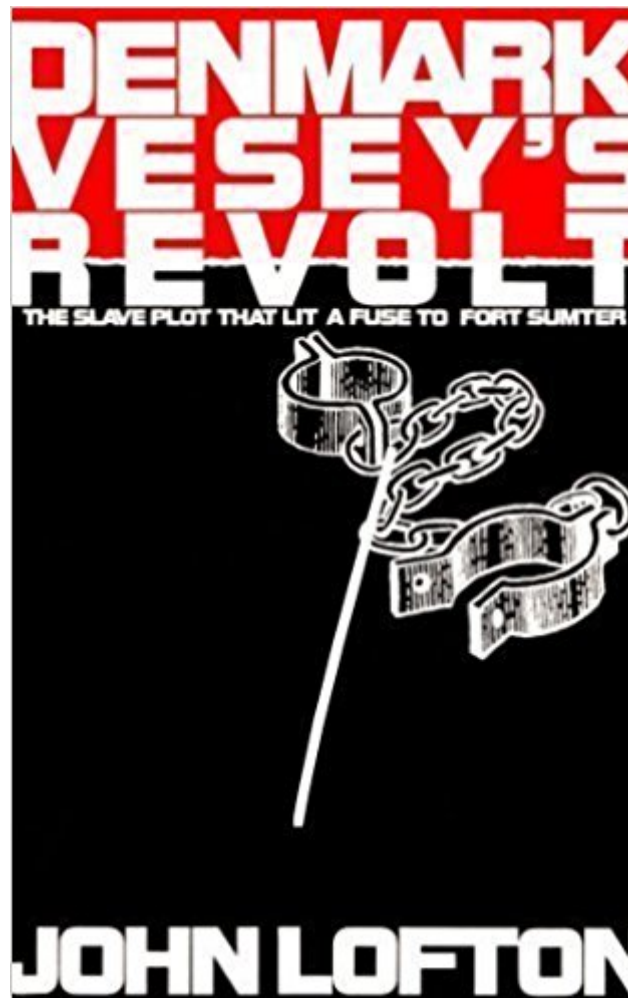




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Denmark Vesey's Revolt: The Slave Plot That Lit A Fuse To Fort Sumter



Synopsis

New edition of a classic social history
In 1822, Denmark Vesey was found guilty of plotting an insurrection what would have been the biggest slave uprising in U.S. history. A free man of color, he was hanged along with 34 other African Americans in Charleston, South Carolina, in what historians agree was probably the largest civil execution in U.S. history. At the time of Vesey's conviction, Charleston was America's chief slave port and one of its most racially tense cities. Whites were outnumbered by slaves three to one, and they were haunted by memories of the 1791 slave rebellion in Haiti. In *Denmark Vesey's Revolt*, John Lofton draws upon primary sources to examine the trial and provide, as Peter Hoffer says in his new introduction, one of the most sensible and measured accounts of the subject. This classic book was originally published in 1964 as *Insurrection in South Carolina: The Turbulent World of Denmark Vesey*, and then reissued by the Kent State University Press in 1983 as *Denmark Vesey's Revolt: The Slave Plot That Lit a Fuse to Fort Sumter*. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

I think this author did a relatively good job. He gives the reader much history of what was going on in Charleston at the time and Vesey's ex owner. In other words, he set the stage for why the Vesey plot occurred. I thought he was unusually fair and well balanced in depicting the Africans' lives. I recommend this book.

Lofton's book more than does justice to the many attempts by black men to gain their freedom by

any means necessary during the long night of human slavery in America. Those attempts started incidentally as far back as the sixteenth century against the Spanish in South Carolina, the very state where the revolt that Lofton writes about took place. In masterly style Lofton creates the world that Denmark Vesey, the leader of the revolt and the eponymous hero of the book, lived in. And his meticulous detailing of how and where and when the revolt was planned and the magnitude of it leaves no doubt as to its authenticity. It's a great chapter in the book of black courage in the land that we helped to make great that has demeaned us, committed genocide against us for most of its history and is willing even today to see anyone else in the land of opportunity get jobs that we can't get. Lofton proves that as early as the second decade of the 19th century a man like Vesey, free himself, could organize between 6 - 9,000 men arrange to have ships for support, have wigs made and weapons stored and be ready to start a second revolution to complete the work begun in 1776. That he failed is hardly the point. It was a magnificent attempt. And the establishment: history departments, political analysts, biographers (Monroe was President at the time) has studiously avoided giving it any credit or even considering it worthy of mention. Which just adds to the general impression of black Americans as lazy, worthless without any worthwhile accomplishments that deserve to be taken seriously. An impression that too many black people accept as canon. Lofton and other writers like him have made a gallant attempt to show the real mettle that the black man is made of.

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