



# Frederick Douglass

*By William S. McFeely*

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This biography of Frederick Douglass covers the life of an orator, abolitionist and writer. Douglass was one of the most powerful voices for freedom in the United States and his autobiographies ("Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass") have shaped the American view of slavery. In this biography, McFeely presents Douglass as a central figure of his time, who identified slavery as the cause of the Civil War. He also examines fully the complex relationship Douglass maintained with his illiterate wife, his children who were for ever in awe of their famous father and well-educated women friends.

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## Frederick Douglass By William S. McFeely Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #928308 in Books
- Published on: 1991-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.75" h x 6.50" w x 1.75" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 480 pages

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A runaway slave at 20, Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) won worldwide renown as a spokesman for the abolitionist cause, edited an influential antislavery weekly and helped organize black regiments during the Civil War. After the Emancipation Proclamation he aggressively championed full citizenship for his fellow black Americans. In this unhurried and beautifully crafted biography, the author presents the known facts of Douglass's stormy life and reveals the man behind the icon: his complex and ambiguous friendships with William Lloyd Garrison, John Brown and other figures of the day; his gossip-stirring relationships with several dynamic white women; his controversial tenure as U.S. minister to Haiti near the end of his life. McFeely analyzes Douglass's autobiographical writings, probing insightfully into the complicated psyche of this heroic figure. The biography is a major work of scholarship that brings into vivid focus the nature of slave culture and racial prejudice in 19th-century America. McFeely, a history professor at the University of Georgia, won a Pulitzer Prize for *Grant: A Biography*. Photos. BOMC, History Book Club and QPB selections.

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From School Library Journal

YA-- This excellent biography fluently tells the life story of Douglass, one of the 19th century's most famous writers and speakers on abolitionist and human rights causes. It traces his life from his birth as a slave in Maryland, through his self-education, escape to freedom, and subsequent lionization as a renowned orator in England and the United States. Readers familiar with his life will be grateful for the little-known information about his family, and a general audience will enjoy the well-rounded, literate stories of Douglass's contemporaries. Fascinating, too, are accounts of the era's politics, such as the racist views held by some abolitionist leaders and the ways in which many policies made in post-Civil War times have worked to the detriment of today's civil rights movement. The chapter on Frederick Douglass and John Brown is, in itself, interesting enough to commend this powerful biography. The seldom-seen photographs, the careful chapter notes, documentation, and acknowledgements will encourage YAs to become not only dedicated Douglass historians but also avid William McFeely fans.

- *Isabelle Bligh, Edison High School, Alexandria,*

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Review

"A masterpiece....[W]ill rightfully assume its place as the standard biography of a truly great figure in the nation's past." (New York Newsday)

"Absolutely nonpareil. . . . This biography?tender and critical, respectful yet observant?presents a character of Frederick Douglass that is more thoroughly human than seemed possible in careful scholarship." (Nell Irvin Painter - Boston Globe)

"Stunning. . . . This illuminating portrait dispenses with the myths." (Financial Times)

"Compelling. . . . Suggests that the Age of Douglass was this nation's greatest epoch. . . . What a time. What a book." (Ishmael Reed - Los Angeles Times)

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#### **Raymond Smith:**

As people who live in typically the modest era should be revise about what going on or information even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era that is certainly always change and advance. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what kind you should start with. This Frederick Douglass is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and want in this era.

#### **Laura Crabtree:**

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always try and and must have the free time or they will get wide range of stress from both everyday life and work. So , if we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not just a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to you of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative throughout spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is Frederick Douglass.

#### **William Ochoa:**

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of information. Even you love Frederick Douglass, you are able to enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

#### **Jaime McKenney:**

Beside that Frederick Douglass in your phone, it might give you a way to get nearer to the new knowledge or details. The information and the knowledge you are going to got here is fresh in the oven so don't end up being worry if you feel like an older people live in narrow small town. It is good thing to have Frederick Douglass because this book offers for your requirements readable information. Do you at times have book but you rarely get what it's facts concerning. Oh come on, that won't happen if you have this in your hand. The Enjoyable option here cannot be questionable, like treasuring beautiful island. Techniques you still want to miss that? Find this book along with read it from today!

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