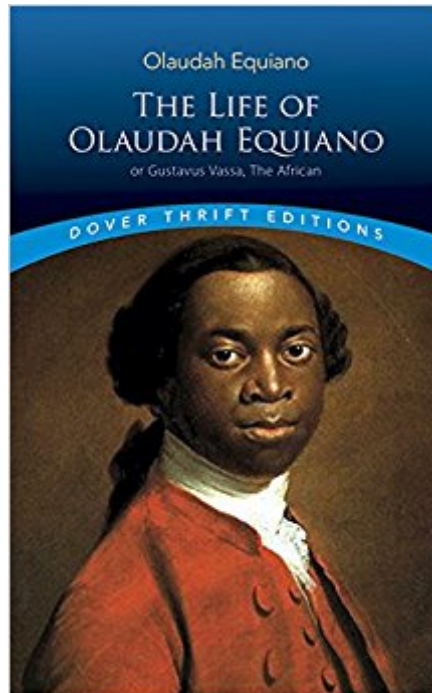




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# **The Life Of Olaudah Equiano (Dover Thrift Editions)**



## Synopsis

Slave narratives are powerful indictments of the horrors of slavery and oppression, invaluable not only for the stories they tell but also for the consistently high quality of their literary style. This book by Olaudah Equiano is one such story. A compelling account that has gripped and fascinated readers since its original London publication in 1789, the narrative describes Equiano's formidable journey from captivity to freedom and literacy. Charting a passage that takes him from life as an Igbo prince in what is now eastern Nigeria to the New World, Equiano begins with a description of his native land that includes particulars of the dress, agriculture, industry, commerce, rituals, superstitions, and religious ceremonies of his country. In stark and poignant detail he gives a compelling account of his kidnapping and his ordeal aboard the slave ship, his service in the French and Indian wars, as well as many other of his vicissitudes and adventures until he finally settles in England, where he becomes a key figure in the British abolitionist movement. Skillfully written with a wealth of gripping detail, this volume powerfully illustrates the nature of the black experience in slavery, making it essential reading for students of African-American history and anyone interested in the struggle for equal rights and human dignity.

## Book Information

Series: Dover Thrift Editions

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications (January 26, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 048640661X

ISBN-13: 978-0486406619

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 144 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #57,183 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > United States > African American #54 in Books > Law > Constitutional Law > Human Rights #102 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Human Rights

## Customer Reviews

Olaudah Equiano (c. 1745 – 31 March 1797), known in his lifetime as Gustavus Vassa, was a prominent African in London, a freed slave who supported the British movement to end the slave

trade. His autobiography, published in 1789, helped in the creation of the Slave Trade Act 1807 which ended the African trade for Britain and its colonies. Equiano knew that one of the most powerful arguments against slavery was his own life story. He published his autobiography in 1789: *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*. It became a bestseller and was translated into many languages. The book began with a petition addressed to Parliament and ended with his antislavery letter to the Queen. The tens of thousands of people who read Equiano's book, or heard him speak, started to see slavery through the eyes of a former enslaved African. It was a very important book that made a vital contribution to the abolitionists' cause. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

*The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African*. Written by Himself by Olaudah Equiano. Olaudah Equiano created a record of the 18th century slave trade through his first-hand knowledge and experiences and the writing of this book. Born in Eboe, Africa, what is now Nigeria, he begins by describing life in Eboe and illustrates the cultural, religious, and moral aspects of African life as he knew and understood them. In 1756, at the age of 11, he was kidnapped, torn from his family and all that he knew. He was sold into slavery and brought to the West Indies under cruel, torturous conditions. He was bought and sold by one seafaring captain and then another and another, as per the whims and needs of each. Early on in his life as a slave, one of his masters gave him the name Gustavas Vassa. Although at first he refused the name, he was taught harshly to make it his, the name he then used for most of his life. During one voyage to England as a slave, Olaudah Equiano found Christianity. Fascinated with the religion, he visited churches and began studying the Bible. Eventually he was baptized as a Protestant of the Church of England. He was an avid student of the Bible and a devout believer and later sought missionary work in Africa but was denied ordainment. In 1766 he was granted his freedom. As a free black man, he continued his association with the captains of ships, yet he continued to endure cruelties, often finding himself at death's door and wishing death to take him. From there, however, the account is of his religious experiences and understanding, his deep religious convictions, and his desire to do missionary work. For me, the book ended with his freedom from slavery. Olaudah Equiano was there. The telling of history does not get any better than that.

A wonderful story of tragedy and faith by one of the first narratives of a literary freed slave. A first hand account by an exceptional man abducted from the interior region of Benin in west central Africa. Thankfully for him, and his readers, he was able to become very literate in English language

and writing. His honesty and integrity, along with his intelligence, hard work, command of the English language, and quest for faith led him to lead a rewarding life in an era when black people were extremely abused. It is a gripping tale that I recommend to everyone, no excuses, it was a free download to a Prime member on . It inspires me to research any rumors that this book is inauthentic in any way. It describes an era between the 1740's and the 1780's. It will be of interest to those reading about slavery and maritime trade.

Captivating account of one life of many thousands of the injustices and acts of inhumanity perpetrated upon helpless and vulnerable people violently kidnapped, bereft of home, dignity, life and liberty for the rest of their lives. But one man, the autobiographer, seeks to accomplish a higher purpose from his experience to appeal to the queen to end the violent barbarity of the slave trade

A must-read for anyone with a soul... but be sure to have a box of tissues handy! This is the totally AMAZING autobiography of Olaudah Equiano (pronounced OH-LA-OO-DAH EH-QUEE-AH-NO), who went from being a free young man in Africa to being a slave to other Africans to being a slave to Whites in the Caribbean and American South, and through his faith, honesty, morality, and love for his fellow man of all races he attained his liberty in Britain and ascended to the social rank of Gentleman. A gut-wrenching, tear-jerking, and ultimately exalting story that takes you from the depths of man's grievous wickedness to the heights of mercy, forgiveness, and victory over tyranny. I strongly believe that this should be required reading in every school.

This reads like a combination of the biography of Frederick Douglass and Forrest Gump. In other words, he floats around accidental-like on a breeze, and suffers mightily wherever he goes and has great adventures. Where didn't he go? And what didn't he see in cruelty? It's almost not quite believable, but the narrative gives off an air of authenticity via his combination of eloquence, assertions of truth and request for fact-checking, and his finding God. Astonishing, truly, and moving.

What a fascinating book! Equiano was a fascinating man who had incomparable experiences in the mid to late 18th century. If you want an exceptional insight into this era of England's history, along with the "new world" this is a great read. If you are interested in sailing history during this period, this is a great read. If you are interested in a man's growth from paganism to faith in Christ, this is a great read!

i am not halfway through the book yet but so far it has met and exceeded my expectations. i do a lot of reading of african american history ( though i am not strictly labelling thiw one as such), and this one by far is the most engaging. olaudah's life took place in the 18th century and yet i feel as if i am sitting next to him in the here and now and he is relating his story to me. i can picture this man and what he endured. that the cover was his portrait was dead-on excellent, nothing else would have worked as well as it does to draw the interested party in. i expected a book filled with historical anectdotes and facts and got that captured in a well written, well-divided, engrossing text-i want to say entertaining also but it is not, it is a sad story at its heart, a sad commentary on life for africans in the 18th century.

This book is autobiographical and tells something of the life of a West African slave forced onto a slave ship and sold into slavery in Barbados. His view of the masters and other whites is negative but changes as his conversion to Christianity brings him into contact with more whites. This was an early, perhaps the earliest of the slave narratives. I find myself wondering how much is accurate and how much is written with assistance or edited into its current form. This is an important book whatever the truth might be. It is worth reading.

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