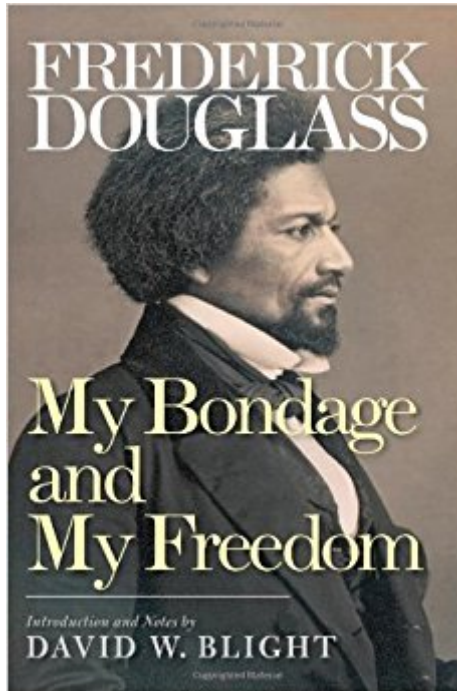




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# My Bondage And My Freedom



## Synopsis

Born into slavery in 1818, Frederick Douglass escaped to freedom and became a passionate advocate for abolition and social change and the foremost spokesperson for the nation's enslaved African American population in the years preceding the Civil War. *My Bondage and My Freedom* is Douglass's masterful recounting of his remarkable life and a fiery condemnation of a political and social system that would reduce people to property and keep an entire race in chains. This classic is revisited with a new introduction and annotations by celebrated Douglass scholar David W. Blight. Blight situates the book within the politics of the 1850s and illuminates how *My Bondage* represents Douglass as a mature, confident, powerful writer who crafted some of the most unforgettable metaphors of slavery and freedom—indeed of basic human universal aspirations for freedom—anywhere in the English language.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"David Blight has produced a fine edition of Douglass' second autobiography. This is an essential work in African-American and American history, and displays Douglass' developing strength as a writer and political leader."—Richard Slotkin, Wesleyan University  
"With scorching rhetoric, my heroic ancestor rails against the inhumanity of slavery while upholding the tenets of liberty with poetic elegance. In this new edition, David Blight offers a fresh perspective on my great-great-grandfather's life from his enslavement on the eastern shore of Maryland to his emergence as a revolutionary leader at the center of a national crisis over the future of slavery."—Kenneth

B. Morris, Jr., Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives"David Blight's graceful introduction provides the essential historical context, public as well as private, and helps us appreciate how Douglass's great book managed to be at once a piercing polemic, an extraordinary act of memory, and a masterpiece of American prose." — James Oakes, City University of New York

Frederick Douglass (1818–1895) was an American social reformer, orator, author, and statesman. David W. Blight is professor of American history at Yale University and director of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition.

An amazing, eye-opening book. Everyone should read this.

Excellent

History is very much of interest to me as try to become more acquainted with pieces of history that I am not familiar. It seems as time passes, what I have learned in the past has become fuzzy. I like having references that I can restore sections of history that I should have remembered from my time in school. Thanks for making this section of history available.

this was one of the books required for my african american experience history class last term. this reading was difficult for me due to the content, but I was able to manage. I frequently had to take breaks when reading it, or else my emotions would start to go haywire and I'd want to go back in time and give them (whites) a good ass-whooping for being utter bastards...

Purchased for a college History course - I was pleasantly surprised by how easy it was to sit down and read 100 pages. Douglass has a really beautiful and engaging writing style, and of course an important and intriguing story to tell. The professor only assigned a certain number of chapters, but I'll definitely be finishing the whole book.

Language is of the time, so takes a bit getting used to. But a fascinating account of what one man experienced as a slave in Maryland. Horrible and degrading. Very highly recommend.

Good book.

Douglass's second, and lengthier, narrative fills in many of the gaps left in his first autobiography: we learn about his mother, his siblings, and more details about his psychological transformation from brute to man. It's quite insightful, as Douglass is careful to relate each of his personal experiences to the innate evil of the peculiar institution, for both the slave and the slave holder.

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