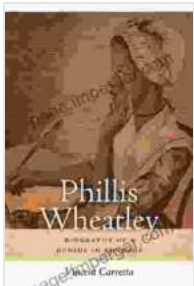


Phillis Wheatley: A Biography of Genius in Bondage

Phillis Wheatley was an extraordinary figure who emerged from the darkest depths of slavery to become a celebrated poet and the first published African-American author. Her life and work stand as a testament to the indomitable spirit of creativity and the transformative power of literature in the face of adversity.



Phillis Wheatley: Biography of a Genius in Bondage

by Vincent Carretta

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 6827 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 319 pages



Early Life and Enslavement

Phillis Wheatley was born around 1753 in Senegambia, West Africa. As a young girl, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery, eventually arriving in Boston in 1761. She was Free Downloaded by John Wheatley, a wealthy merchant, and his wife, Susanna. The Wheatleys treated Phillis with kindness and compassion, recognizing her intelligence and providing her with an education.

Phillis quickly mastered English, Latin, and Greek, and her natural poetic talent became evident from a young age. She wrote her first poem, "To the University of Cambridge," at the age of 14. The poem, which praised the university for its commitment to learning and intellectual freedom, was published in 1767 and received widespread acclaim.



Literary Success

The publication of "To the University of Cambridge" launched Phillis Wheatley's literary career. She went on to publish numerous poems, including "On Being Brought from Africa to America" and "To His Excellency George Washington." Her work explored themes of slavery, freedom, religion, and the pursuit of knowledge. Her poems were praised for their eloquence, emotional depth, and mastery of language.

In 1773, Phillis Wheatley traveled to England with the Wheatleys, where she met with prominent literary figures and was hailed as a literary sensation. Her work was published in London and gained international recognition. However, despite her success, Phillis Wheatley remained a slave, her freedom constantly denied.

Struggle for Freedom

Phillis Wheatley's literary success did not change her legal status as a slave. She yearned for freedom and longed to return to Africa. In 1775, she petitioned the Massachusetts legislature for her emancipation, but her request was denied. Undeterred, she continued to write and speak out against slavery.

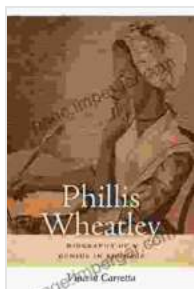
In 1778, Phillis Wheatley was finally granted her freedom by the Wheatley family. She moved to Boston, where she continued to write and support the cause of abolition. However, her life was marked by tragedy. She married a free black man named John Peters, but their marriage was short-lived, and her children died in infancy.

Legacy

Phillis Wheatley died in 1784 at the age of 31. Despite her short life, she left an enduring legacy as a poet, abolitionist, and symbol of resilience and

creativity in the face of adversity. Her work has inspired generations of writers and activists, and her voice continues to resonate in the struggle for social justice and human equality.

Phillis Wheatley's life and work offer a profound meditation on the human spirit's capacity to overcome adversity and achieve greatness. Her story is a reminder of the power of literature to transform lives and challenge social norms. As we celebrate her legacy, let us be inspired by her courage, determination, and unwavering belief in the transformative power of human imagination.



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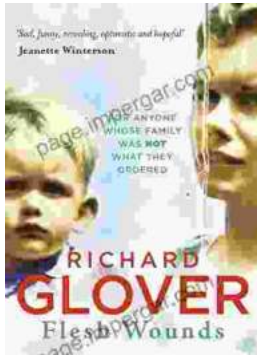
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