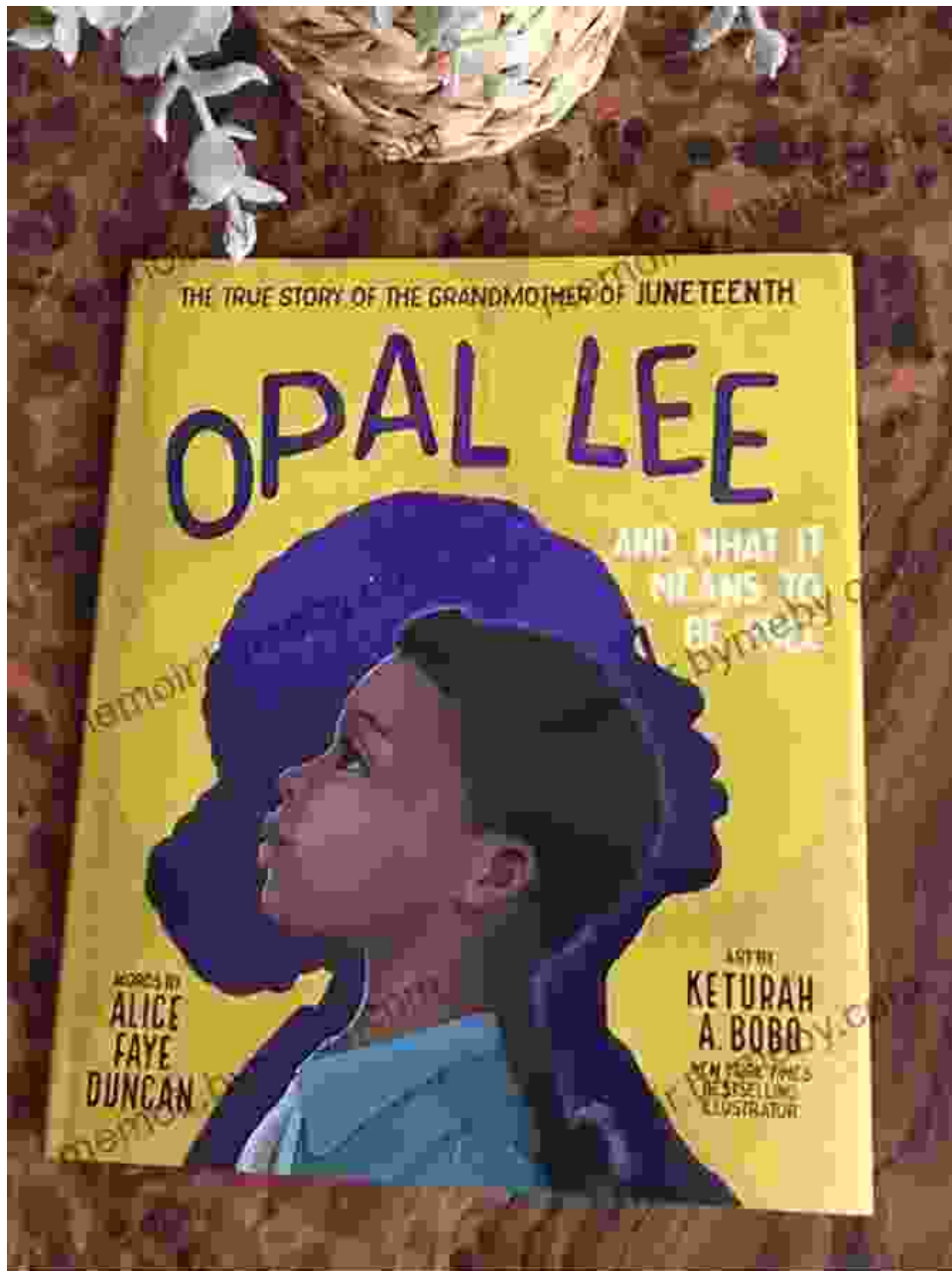


The True Story Of The Grandmother Of Juneteenth: Elizabeth Freeman's Unwavering Fight For Freedom

An to the Grandmother of Juneteenth





Opal Lee and What It Means to Be Free: The True Story of the Grandmother of Juneteenth

by Alice Faye Duncan

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 63292 KB

Print length : 32 pages

Screen Reader : Supported



Unveiling the life of Elizabeth "Miz Bessie" Freeman, an extraordinary woman who played a pivotal role in the abolitionist movement and became known as the grandmother of Juneteenth. Her unwavering fight for freedom, resilience, and legacy continue to resonate deeply in American history.

The Enslavement of Elizabeth Freeman

Elizabeth Freeman was born into slavery around 1742 in Claverack, New York. She was enslaved by Colonel John Ashley, a wealthy slave owner who held her and her family captive for decades. Despite the harsh conditions and oppressive laws, Elizabeth's spirit remained unyielding.

The Road to Freedom

In 1781, Elizabeth seized an opportunity to escape slavery and seek refuge with the Massachusetts abolitionist community. She traveled over 100 miles on foot, guided by the North Star and the support of abolitionists. This daring act of defiance marked the beginning of her quest for freedom.

The Freeman vs. Ashley Trial

Colonel Ashley relentlessly pursued Elizabeth, determined to reclaim his "property." In 1781, the landmark Freeman vs. Ashley trial took place in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Elizabeth, represented by the renowned abolitionist lawyer Theodore Sedgwick, argued that under the state's new constitution, slavery was abolished. The jury, moved by Elizabeth's powerful testimony and the abolitionist sentiment of the time, ruled in her favor, granting her freedom.

A Legacy of Freedom and Juneteenth

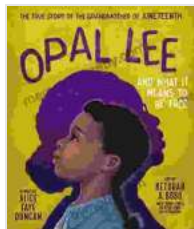
Elizabeth Freeman's victory in court became a beacon of hope for enslaved people across the nation. Her case set a precedent for the abolition of slavery in Massachusetts and contributed to the growing momentum of the abolitionist movement. In 1865, when the Emancipation Proclamation was finally signed, Elizabeth had already been a free woman for over 30 years. Her legacy lived on, inspiring the establishment of Juneteenth, a day of celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States.

Elizabeth Freeman's Character and Significance

Elizabeth Freeman was more than just a slave who escaped to freedom. She was a courageous, determined, and outspoken woman who stood up for what she believed in. Her unwavering spirit, resilience, and intelligence made her an iconic figure in American history. Her story reminds us that even in the darkest of times, the fight for freedom and justice is worth fighting for.

Elizabeth "Miz Bessie" Freeman's life and legacy as the grandmother of Juneteenth serve as a testament to the indomitable spirit that can overcome even the most oppressive circumstances. Her fight for freedom and her contributions to the abolitionist movement left an enduring mark on

American history, inspiring generations to come. Her story continues to remind us that the pursuit of freedom and justice is an ongoing journey, one that we must all strive to advance.



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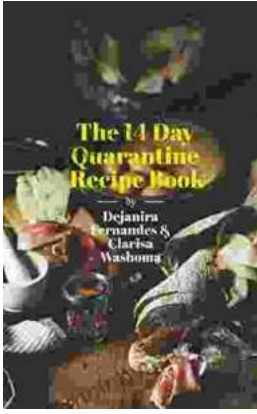
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