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Book Analysis

Cecilia, A Slave

By Melton A. McLaurin

Bibliography

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Student's Name

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Introduction

- ▶ The book is about slave girl known as Cecilia
- ▶ It demonstrates Cecilia's journey to achieve freedom from oppression
- ▶ The author takes readers through the trials and victimization that Cecilia goes through (McLaurin, 1991)
- ▶ He aims to demonstrate the cruel life led by the black female slaves during those times

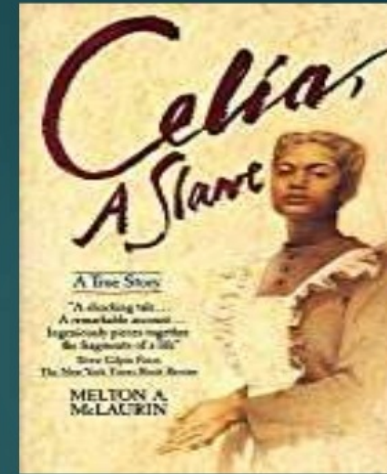


Figure 1: Front cover

Author's Information

- ▶ The author of the book is ¹ Melton A. McLaurin
- ▶ He was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina, in July 11, 1941 (McLaurin, 1991)
- ▶ ¹ He received his Ph.D. in American History in 1967 from the University of South Carolina



Figure 2:

Melton A. McLaurin

³ He has written or co-written nine books and many articles on history

- ▶ His books and articles are based on race relations and American south history
- ▶ He wrote the book “Cecilia, A Slave” to uncover the cruelty that befell female slaves
- ▶ Also wanted to show that slavery was not used for economic gain only but also for personal gain

Book Analysis



- ▶ The book is about Cecilia, a slave who goes through oppression to achieve freedom
- ▶ She was purchased by a Missourian, Robert Newsome after his wife's demise
- ▶ He bought Cecilia for his personal gain and had bad intentions for purchasing her
- ▶ Cecilia was being used by her master for sexual actions which made her bitter
- ▶ Her bitterness made her decide to murder her master to be free from him
- ▶ The author demonstrates Cecilia's feelings and thoughts
- ▶ Throughout the book, readers know what Cecilia is feeling or thinking

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- ▶ The sexual oppression goes on for years which resulted to her bearing children for her master
- ▶ According to the author no one comes for her rescue even her daughters
- ▶ When she murders her master, she is arrested and taken to court
- ▶ She was hanged for the murder of her owner since it was a crime
- ▶ However, nobody considered the reasons as to why she committed the crime
- ▶ During that time, a slave's word did not count for anything, whether right or wrong
- ▶ Also, the relationship between Newsom and Cecilia was not made public
- ▶ According to the book, the reason was “practice was never condoned by public opinion” (McLaurin, 1991)

Continuation...

- ▶ Also, the wives of slave owners in Missouri did not approve the relationship between slaves and their owners
- ▶ The book states that they felt “anger and resentment” to other slaves in their farm (McLaurin, 1991)
- ▶ Hence, the book clearly shows that the life a slave meant nothing to the owner
- ▶ Also, racism played a huge part in the execution of Cecilia
- ▶ The blacks not viewed as human beings which led to victimization and oppression

Conclusion

- ▶ The book emphasizes on the victimization and oppression that slaves used to go through
- ▶ The author achieves his thesis about the use female black slaves for personal gain
- ▶ He also helps the reader to understand the reasons for Cecilia's actions
- ▶ The author demonstrated every aspect of in his thesis on the book
- ▶ Individuals should read this book because it explains and show how life was for black female slaves during such times
- ▶ Also, it shows how racism has affected the decisions of many senior personnel

Reference

- ▶ ¹ McLaurin, M. A. (1991). *Celia, a slave*. University of Georgia Press.

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