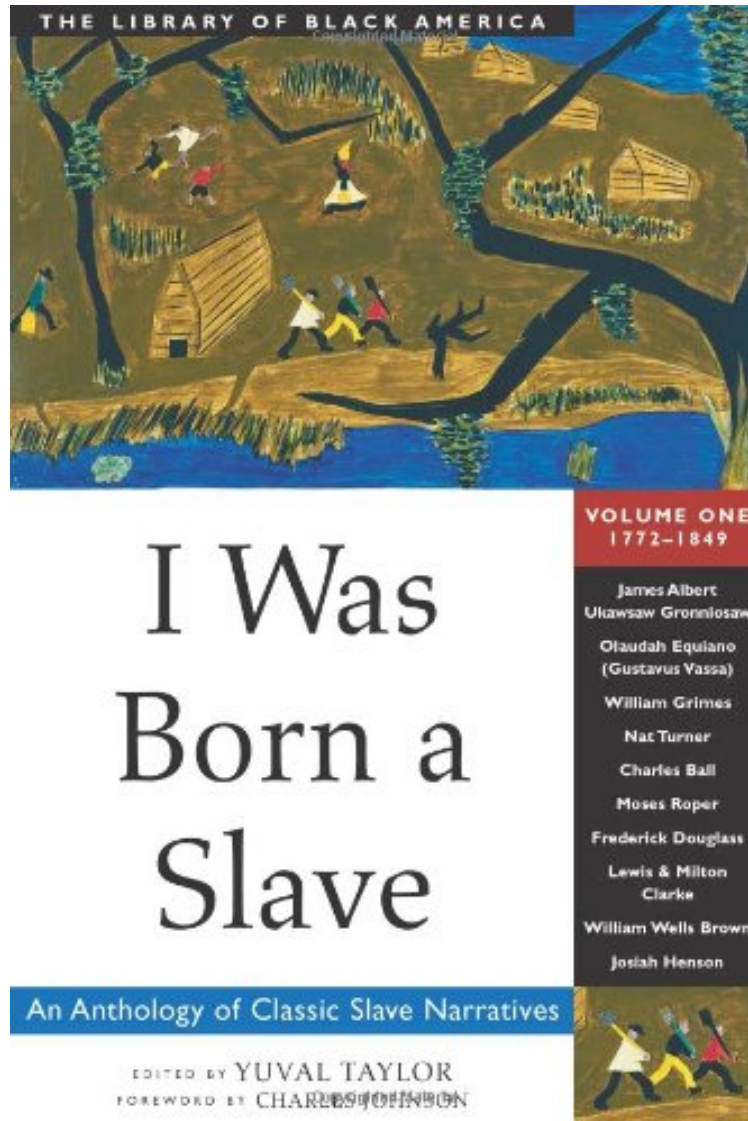


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## I Was Born a Slave: An Anthology of Classic Slave Narratives: 1772-1849 (The Library of Black America series)

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From Brand: Chicago Review Press : I Was Born a Slave: An Anthology of Classic Slave Narratives: 1772-1849 (The Library of Black America series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I Was Born a Slave: An Anthology of Classic Slave Narratives: 1772-1849 (The Library of Black America series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Ex-Slaves Paint a Vivid Picture of Slave Life By Steve Vrana In the forward to this anthology, Charles Johnson states that "everyone is stained, directly or indirectly" by the more than two centuries of slavery that began with the first black indentured servants brought to Jamestown in 1619 through the end of the Civil War. Johnson says it doesn't matter that these events ended so long ago. "...they can object to our obsession with American slavery no more than one can object to our equally passionate interest in the hows and whys of the Holocaust." That is the philosophy behind this collection of ten slave narratives. The oldest is that of James Albert Ukawsaw Gronniosaw, first published in 1772; the most recent is Josiah Henson published in 1849. Before purchasing this anthology, I had only heard of four of these men: Charles Ball and Josiah Henson (because they are quoted extensively in Julius Lester's book "To Be a Slave") and then, of course, Nat Turner and Frederick Douglass. However, each of these narratives are fascinating reads. They give a first-hand look at the darkest chapter of our nation's past. You can read a history book and know about slavery, but you need to read at least one of these narratives to know slavery. VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Worth every single cent. By Customer This is one of the most eye opening pieces of literature I have ever read. Incredibly informative and provoking. Priceless treasure; worth every single cent. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. PECULIAR INSTITUTION By FOXY An anthology every American should read. In doing so, one is intimately reminded of one of the worst 300 hundred years of American History; a reminder that is essential if we are to come to grips with today, to understand the roots of racism, how prejudice is part of our everyday culture and what still needs to be done to assure that everyone, ultimately, will be treated equally.

Between 1760 and 1902, more than 200 book-length autobiographies of ex-slaves were published; together they form the basis for all subsequent African American literature. *I Was Born a Slave* collects the 20 most significant slave narratives. They describe whippings, torture, starvation, resistance, and hairbreadth escapes; slave auctions, kidnappings, and murders; sexual abuse, religious confusion, the struggle of learning to read and write; and the triumphs and difficulties of life as free men and women. Many of the narratives such as those of Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobshave achieved reputations as masterpieces; but some of the lesser-known narratives are equally brilliant. This unprecedented anthology presents them unabridged, providing each one with helpful introductions and annotations, to form the most comprehensive volume ever assembled on the lives and writings of the slaves. Volume One (1770-1849) includes the narratives of James Albert Ukawsaw Gronniosaw, Olaudah Equiano (Gustavus Vassa), William Grimes, Nat Turner, Charles Ball, Moses Roper, Frederick Douglass, Lewis Milton Clarke, William Wells Brown, and Josiah Henson.

About the Author Yuval Taylor is the coauthor of *Faking It: The Quest for Authenticity in Popular Music* and the editor of *Growing Up in Slavery: Stories of Young Slaves as Told by Themselves*.