

THE NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS: EXCERPT FROM CHAPTER 1

by Frederick Douglass 1845



"A sketch of Douglass, from the 1845 edition of Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave" by Unknown is in the public domain.

THE NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS: EXCERPT FROM CHAPTER 1

by Frederick Douglass 1845

Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) was an African American social reformer, orator, and writer. He escaped from slavery, taught himself to read and write, and eventually became a leader of the abolitionist movement. In this excerpt from his 1845 autobiography, *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, he describes the horrifying abuse of his Aunt Hester by their slave master.

As you read, take notes on the author's point of view of life as a slave on a plantation.

About the abuse of Aunt Hester by the slave master

Aunt Hester went out one night,—where or for what I do not know,—and happened to be absent when my master desired her presence. He had ordered her not to go out evenings, and warned her that she must never let him catch her in company with a young man who was paying attention to her belonging to Colonel Lloyd. The young man's name was Ned Roberts, generally called Lloyd's Ned. Why master was so careful of her, may be safely let

Frederick Douglass 生活的叙述： 第一章的摘录

by Frederick Douglass. 1845

Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) 是一位非裔美国社会变革者，演说家和作家。他逃脱奴隶制，自学读和写，最后成为废奴主义者运动的领导人。在这篇他 1845 年自传的摘录中，Frederick Douglass 通过对生活的叙述，描述了他的 Hester 赫丝特阿姨如何被他们的奴隶主可怕的虐待。你在读的时候要记录作者如何看待他在庄园里作为奴隶的生活。

关于 Hester 赫丝特阿姨被奴隶主虐待经过

Hester 赫丝特阿姨一天晚上出去了，我不知道她到哪里去或为什么去，而且她碰巧在我的奴隶主需要她的时候不在。他曾命令她晚上不要出去并且警告她不要让他抓住她与一个关注她的属于陆军上校 Lloyd 的一个年青人在一起。这个年青人的名字是 Ned Roberts, 通常被叫作 Lloyd's Ned. 为什么主人对她如此小心，无疑地

to conjecture. She was a woman of noble form, and of graceful proportions, having very few equals, and fewer superiors, in personal appearance, among the colored or white women of our neighborhood.

Aunt Hester had not only disobeyed his orders in going out, but had been found in company with Lloyd's Ned; which circumstance, I found, from what he said while whipping her, was the chief offence had he been a man of pure morals himself, he might have been thought interested in protecting the innocence of my aunt; but those who knew him will not suspect him of any such virtue. Before he commenced whipping Aunt Hester, he took her into the kitchen, and stripped her from neck to waist, leaving her neck, shoulders, and back, entirely naked. He then told her to cross her hands, calling her at the same time, a d—d b—h. After crossing her hands, he tied them with a strong rope, and led her to a stool under a large hook in the joist, put in for the purpose. He made her get upon the stool and tied her hands to the hook. She now stood fair for his infernal purpose. Her arms were stretched up at their full length so that she stood upon the ends of her toes. He then said to her, "Now, you d—d b—h, I'll learn you how to disobey my orders!" and after rolling up his sleeves, he commenced to lay on the heavy cow skin, and soon the warm, red blood (amid heart-rending shrieks from her and horrid oaths from him) came dripping to the floor. I was so terrified and horror-stricken at the sight, that I hid myself in a closet, and dared not venture out till long after the bloody transaction was over. I expected it would be my turn next. It was all new to me. I had never seen anything like it before. I had always lived with my grandmother on the outskirts of the plantation, where she was put to raise the children of the younger women. I had therefore been, until now, out of the way of the bloody scenes that often occurred on the plantation.

The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: Excerpt from Chapter 1 by Frederick Douglass is in the public domain.

让人猜测。她是一个具有高贵，优雅，均匀身材的女人。在我们附近地区的有色或白种女人中，很少有人可以与她媲美，更没有几个人比她强。

Hester 赫丝特 阿姨不但没有服从主人的命令不出去；还被发现同 Lloyd's Ned 在一起；这种情况我是从主人鞭打她时听说的，这是她的主要罪行。他是一个有纯粹道德的人吗，人们可能认为他有心保护我阿姨的天真无邪；但是了解他的人不会不怀疑他是否会有这种美德。在他开始鞭打 Hester 赫丝特阿姨之前，他把她带进厨房，并且把她从脖子到腰的衣服扒光，她的脖子，肩膀，后背全部裸露，然后叫她两手交叉并在同时叫她，ad-d boh。在她把双手交叉之后，他用很结实的绳子把她的双手绑上然后把她领到一张凳子跟前。凳子放在房梁上有意安的大钩子底下。他让她站在凳子上并把她的手绑在钩子上。她现在为他的地狱般的目的站定。她的两个胳膊被拉直以便使她踮着脚尖站着。他然后对她说，“现在，你，我要知道你如何不服从我的命令！”在卷起他的袖子之后，他开始用很重的牛皮鞭抽打，很快红的热血（在她令人心碎的尖叫声和他可怕的誓言中）开始滴到地上。我看到这些感到如此的恐惧和惊骇，就把自己藏在橱柜里，并且在流血事件之后很长一段时间没有敢出来。我预料下次该轮到我了。这是我第一次经历这种情形。我以前从来没见过这种事情。我在此之前一直和我的祖母住在庄园的郊外，祖母在那里帮助年轻女人看养孩子，因此我在来此之前从未碰到过这种在庄园经常发生的流血场面。

--	--