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Contact: Jessica Moody, VP Marketing
(800) 562-2139 x101
jmoody@greyhouse.com

Salem Press Announces a New Addition to the *Critical Insights* Series ***Critical Insights: Twelve Years a Slave***

This exciting new addition to the *Critical Insights* series explores Solomon Northup's 1853 oral memoir through various perspectives including those of race, class, history, biography, psychology, and sociology, to name a few. Reception of this work historically and into the modern day as a piece of writing and as later adaptations for television and film is considered in depth.

This story's effectiveness as a piece of writing is analyzed and further contrasted with other notable works concerning slavery such as Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, allowing readers to gain a full perspective of the different ways the theme has appeared in literature.

In the introductory essay, volume editor Robert C. Evans summarizes the essays contained in this volume and provides guidance for readers in pinpointing particular topics of interest.

A collection of four Critical Contexts essays is intended to view slavery in literature:

- 1) From a historical vantage point
- 2) In terms of its critical reception
- 3) Using a specific critical lens
- 4) And by comparing and contrasting it with another important work.

The four **Critical Context** essays include:

- Solomon Northup as a "Driver" in the Narrative and Film Versions of *Twelve Years a Slave*, Robert C. Evans
- *Twelve Years a Slave: Reception, Critical Reputation, and Uses*, Laurence W. Mazzeno
- Truth, Trauma, and Technique: Narrative Strategies in *Twelve Years a Slave*, Nicolas Tredell
- High Style and Vernacular: Contrasting Languages in *Twelve Years a Slave and Barracoon*, Nicolas Tredell

Following these four Critical Context essays is the **Critical Readings** section of this book, which contains the following essays:

- The Never-ending Quest for Authenticity: Validating the Lived Experience of Solomon Northup, Melinda Knight
- Narrative Authority in Solomon Northup’s *Twelve Years a Slave*, Edwin Wong
- “What difference is there in the color of the soul?”: The Practical Discourse Around Race and Slavery in *Twelve Years a Slave*, Matthew M. Thiele
- “Without the pale of humanity”: The Dehumanizing Effects of American Chattel Slavery in *Twelve Years a Slave*, Matthew M. Thiele.
- Missing Children: A Black Father’s Love in *Twelve Years a Slave*, Jericho Williams.
- The Academic Response to Steve McQueen’s *12 Years a Slave*, Laurence W. Mazzeno
- Aspects of Literary Style and Cinematic Adaptation in *12 Years a Slave*, Christopher Baker
- Literary Excellence in the Screenplay for Steve McQueen’s Film *12 Years a Slave*, Robert C. Evans.
- The Hanging Scene in Steve McQueen’s *Film 12 Years a Slave*, Jordan Bailey

Each essay in *Critical Insights: Twelve Years a Slave* includes a list of **Works Cited** and detailed endnotes. In the final section, **Resources**, a Chronology of Solomon Northup’s Life is provided followed by a **Bibliography**. Finally, this section closes with an **About the Editor** section, **Contributors**, and a detailed **Index**.

The *Critical Insights* Series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world’s most studied literature. Edited and written by some of academia’s most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights: Twelve Years a Slave* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years. This volume is destined to become a valuable purchase for all.

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