

# Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe (1852)

It is a novel about the evils of slavery. Black people had no rights, no education, could not testify in court, could not sue others.... Americans send thousands of dollars to foreign missionaries, but ignore those in need near them.

The master (Mr. Shelby) of the hero (Tom) was in debt and sold Tom & Eliza's son to cover his debt. Mrs. Shelby vowed to save the money to buy them back. Eliza couldn't bear the thought of losing her son so she ran away with him. Along the Underground Railroad they found Eliza's husband, George, was owned by another & also ran away seeking freedom. The three of them made it to Canada & became free.

Tom was bought by a kind man who had an angelic daughter named Eva. Tom & Eva were pure-hearted & love the Lord. But Eva died and even though her dad said he would free Tom, he suddenly died without writing it down. Eva's mom never appreciated the angel before her & she was a bitter hypochondriac & when her husband died, she sold all of the slaves. Tom was sold to the vilest man you can imagine named Legree.

The evil spirit in the man hated the good in Tom, but Tom showed love & integrity to those around him. He befriended a lady named Cassy. Legree beat Tom to death & soon after young Shelby came to redeem Tom, but it was too late. Cassy escaped & she was riding on a boat bound north when she met a lady & young Shelby. The lady was inquiring about her brother and found out he married Eliza. It was soon discovered that Eliza is Cassy's daughter and this lady is George's sister. They all went to Canada to find George & Eliza. Young Shelby went home & freed all of their slaves, and made Tom's cabin a memorial.

## Quotes:

"It's a free country & I'll do what I want with my slaves." (HBS)

"He who has nothing to lose can afford all risks." (HBS)

"So, you're the little woman who wrote the book that made this great war." (Abe Lincoln)

Some unfortunate souls assume value of things that are gone, but not when they were alive.