



Forbidden Fruit: Love Stories from the Underground Railroad

By Betty DeRamus

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Forbidden Fruit: Love Stories from the Underground Railroad By Betty DeRamus

Forbidden Fruit is a collection of fascinating, largely untold tales of ordinary men and women who faced mobs, bloodhounds, bounty hunters, and bullets to be together -- and defy a system that categorized blacks not only as servants, but as property.

Here you'll meet, among other extraordinary characters, a fugitive slave from Virginia who spends seventeen years searching for his wife. A Georgia slave couple that sails for England with federal troops trailing behind. A white woman who falls in love with her deceased husband's slave. A young slave girl who is delivered to her fiancé inside a wooden chest.

Acclaimed journalist Betty DeRamus gleaned these anecdotes from descendants of runaway slave couples, unpublished memoirs, Civil War records, census data, magazines, and dozens of previously untapped sources. This is a book about people pursuing love and achievement in a time of hate and severely limited opportunities. Though not all of the stories in *Forbidden Fruit* end in triumph, they all celebrate hope, passion, courage, and triumph of the human spirit.

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Forbidden Fruit: Love Stories from the Underground Railroad By Betty DeRamus Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

"He carried his wife to freedom on his scarred and beaten back - that's really all you need to know about John Little." But journalist DeRamus reveals more about Little and a dozen or so others in this uplifting and sometimes heartbreaking look at love during the U.S.'s slavery years. Employing newspaper articles, unpublished memoirs and reminiscences, oral histories, slave narratives, census data and other sources, not to mention a dramatic, novelistic narrative voice, DeRamus profiles couples - slave and free, black and white - who risked everything to be together. Slaves Ellen and William Craft escaped to the North by posing as a master (Ellen, with her "creamy color," played a white man) and his man (William was "the slave who cut up her meat and warmed her flannels"). James Smith was an escaped slave who spent 17 years traveling from Virginia to Canada in search of his beloved wife, and Lucy Millard was a white preacher's daughter who fell in love with Isaac Berry, a slave. "[N]ot all of these true tales end in triumph," DeRamus warns, but they are all riveting - if sometimes told in overdone prose. DeRamus and her subjects do the valuable service of reminding readers what it means to be courageous enough to love "in sickness and in health, [and] in war and peace as well." Illus

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From [Booklist](#)

Debunking one of the myths used to justify separating families during slavery, de Ramus offers a collection of stories recording the love and devotion of slave couples, many of whom risked their lives to stay together. Because families could be divided on the whim or financial woes of masters, real love was a luxury, a forbidden fruit. Drawing from historical records, unpublished memoirs, newspaper accounts, and stories passed down through families, de Ramus tells of couples fleeing the South via the Underground Railroad to attain freedom and to maintain their unity. She recounts the story of a young slave girl who travels inside a wooden chest to her beloved, while a young white woman and an enslaved man travel separately and meet in Canada. Free black men and women occasionally relinquished their freedom to chance remaining with their loved ones. De Ramus recalls couples, from the Deep South to the upper reaches of Michigan, facing mobs and bounty hunters in their efforts to stay together, adding a new perspective to the history of American slavery. *Vanessa Bush*

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Review

"The humanity of African Americans, whether caught in the throes of bondage or fleeing captivity, is given a fresh veneer in *Forbidden Fruit*. With lucid and poignant prose, Betty DeRamus has tapped a heretofore unknown vein of Black culture: love stories from the Underground Railroad."

-- Herb Boyd, author of *We Shall Overcome* and *Pound for Pound*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Harold Graham:

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book particularly book entitled *Forbidden Fruit: Love Stories from the Underground Railroad* your thoughts will drift away trough

every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a publication then become one type conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get just before. The Forbidden Fruit: Love Stories from the Underground Railroad giving you a different experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful data for your better life within this era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

Alice Olivares:

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Susan Brooks:

Some individuals said that they feel bored stiff when they reading a book. They are directly felt the item when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose often the book Forbidden Fruit: Love Stories from the Underground Railroad to make your own reading is interesting. Your personal skill of reading skill is developing when you just like reading. Try to choose easy book to make you enjoy to learn it and mingle the impression about book and reading especially. It is to be first opinion for you to like to start a book and examine it. Beside that the guide Forbidden Fruit: Love Stories from the Underground Railroad can to be your brand-new friend when you're feel alone and confuse with the information must you're doing of that time.

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