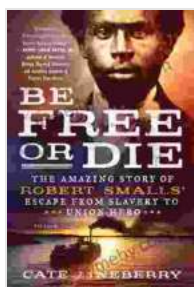


The Amazing Story Of Robert Smalls Escape From Slavery To Union Hero

In the annals of American history, the name Robert Smalls stands out as a beacon of courage, determination, and triumph over adversity.



Be Free or Die: The Amazing Story of Robert Smalls' Escape from Slavery to Union Hero by Cate Lineberry

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 21505 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 289 pages



Born into slavery in Beaufort, South Carolina, in 1839, Smalls endured the horrors of forced labor and oppression. Despite the challenges he faced, he harbored an unwavering dream of freedom and a burning desire to escape his bondage.



The Daring Escape

In May 1862, as the Civil War raged across the country, Smalls saw his opportunity. A Confederate steamer, the Planter, was docked in Charleston Harbor, under the command of a skeleton crew. Smalls, who had worked on the ship as a slave, was acutely aware of its layout and operation.

With a daring plan in mind, Smalls rallied a group of fellow enslaved African Americans and devised a plan to seize the Planter and escape to freedom.

On the night of May 12, 1862, Smalls and his companions stealthily boarded the Planter. As the Confederate soldiers slept, Smalls took control of the ship's engine and steered it out of the harbor.

Navigating through enemy waters, Smalls skillfully maneuvered the Planter towards the Union blockade off the coast of South Carolina. As they approached the blockading ships, Smalls raised a white flag in surrender, signaling his peaceful intentions.

From Slave to Union Hero

Smalls and his fellow escapees were hailed as heroes by the Union forces. Recognizing his exceptional skills and leadership qualities, the Union Navy enlisted Smalls as a pilot. He later rose through the ranks, becoming the first African American to command a ship in the United States Navy.

Smalls' military service was marked by bravery and distinction. He led daring raids behind enemy lines, captured Confederate ships, and played a pivotal role in the Union's eventual victory in the war.

A Legacy of Triumph

After the war, Smalls returned to his home state of South Carolina and became a leading advocate for the rights of African Americans. He served in the state legislature and the U.S. House of Representatives, tirelessly fighting for equality and justice.

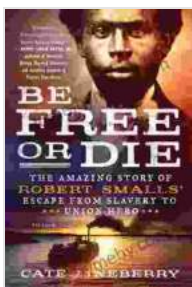
Throughout his life, Robert Smalls embodied the indomitable spirit of the human soul. His story is a testament to the power of courage, determination, and the unwavering pursuit of freedom.

Epilogue

The legacy of Robert Smalls continues to inspire generations. His story has been featured in numerous books, documentaries, and historical works. In

2012, the U.S. Navy commissioned a ship in his honor, the USS Robert Smalls (BM-22).

Robert Smalls' journey from slavery to Union hero is a timeless tale of resilience, determination, and the triumph of the human spirit.



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