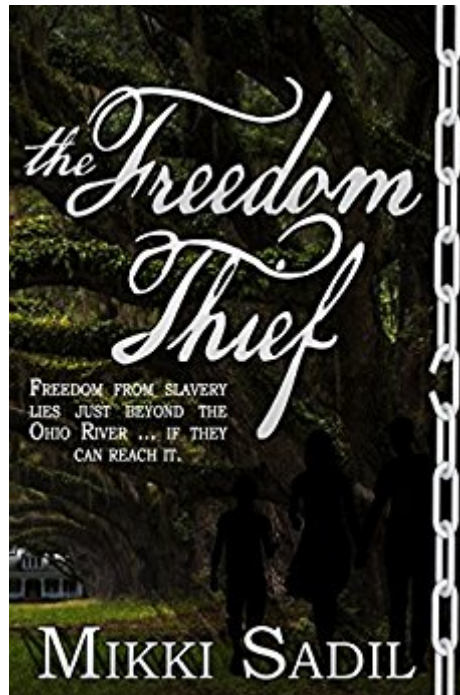




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The Freedom Thief



Synopsis

Shortly before the Civil War exploded in the South, thirteen year-old Ben McKenna was fighting his own war against slavery, on the hemp plantation in Kentucky where he lives. His best friend, a crippled slave boy, Josiah, was about to be sold by Ben's father, and Ben decided to stop that sale by planning an escape for Josiah and his slave parents. When the buyer for Josiah arrived early, Ben realized the escape had to take place that very night. Without any kind of plan, or even a map, Ben and Josiah and his parents, Bess and Jesse, embarked upon a journey to find the Ohio River and the freedom that lay beyond for slaves. Instead, of help along the way they found hostility, danger, and deception, in a quest that almost cost their lives. Plagued with fear, hunger and exhaustion, they are on the run from slave hunters and their dogs -- dogs that followed their scent no matter what they did to disguise it. Hidden barns, tiny attic rooms, cellars full of rotting fruit and vegetables were their only means of safety. After each brief stay they had to leave and run again. Treachery seemed to be the name of the game, and Ben was never sure if they were ever going to find the safety and freedom of the Ohio River.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This novel effectively combines a heart warming coming of age tale with the suspense of a life threatening journey. Ben knows slavery is wrong, but living on his father's plantation means there's nothing he can do. When his best friend, a crippled slave boy, is going to be sold, Ben knows he has to act. Forsaking his own safety, Ben leads the family of slaves on a path he hopes will end in freedom. Filled with adventure, The Freedom Thief describes the many groups of people who helped ... or hindered slaves on their long journey to freedom. A great book. Well done.

The Freedom Thief is a book I highly recommend. The young hero takes on a task to save his friend and acts in opposition to his father to do so. The characters were well developed and one roots for him every step he takes.

I am far from a young adult, but the title intrigued me and I had to read it. This is a well written book , very descriptive, and the story drew me in immediately. It is a good novel, and yet its content brought out knowledge and feelings that made me sympathize with everyone in the book. I think it is a mind broadening story for the reader. I hope the author has more like it.

Interesting reading.

Very good book.

This was a beautiful story. I found it heartwarming that a person that young acted upon the courage of his convictions in the face of such overwhelming odds. This story restores my faith that there were and still are good people in the world.

Great read, loved the plot. Would love to see a continuation of this plot. This idea could possible have been a true story. Love this type of read.

Written for someone age 10 and under.

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