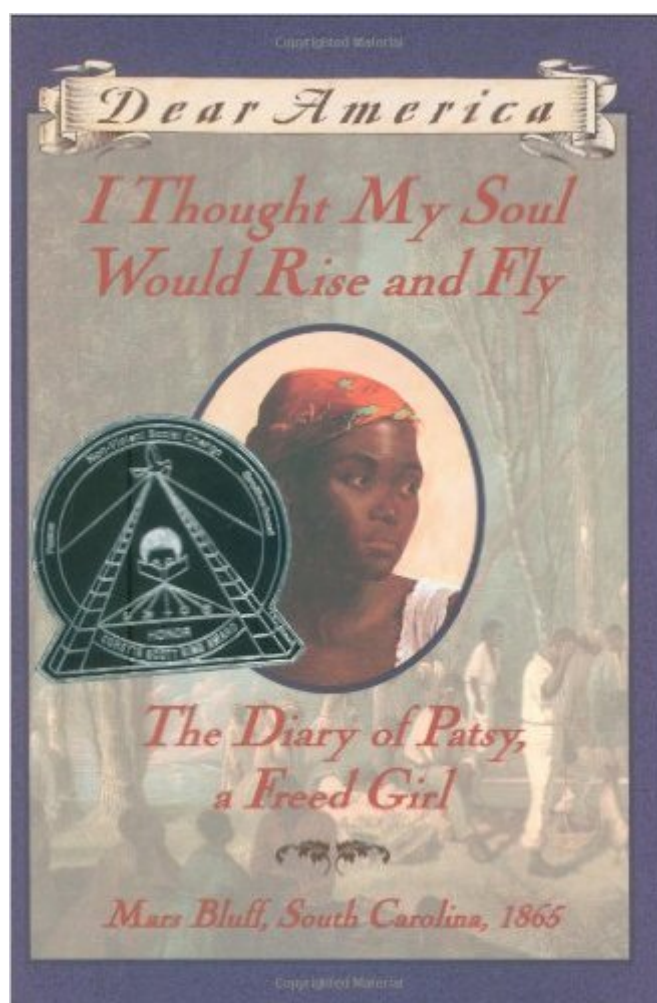


The book was found

I Thought My Soul Would Rise And Fly: The Diary Of Patsy, A Freed Girl, Mars Bluff, South Carolina 1865 (Dear America Series)



Synopsis

In this latest addition to the Dear America series, Coretta Scott King Honor-winning author Joyce Hansen presents the inspiring story of Patsy, a freed girl who becomes a great teacher.

Book Information

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Lexile Measure: 820L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 208 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Inc.; Library Binding edition (October 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0590849131

ISBN-13: 978-0590849135

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 5.3 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (65 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #538,189 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #93 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > Civil War Era](#) #600 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s](#) #806 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American](#)

Customer Reviews

"I Thought My Soul Would Rise and Fly" was a great novel on a recently freed girl, Patsy, who lives on a plantation. She's different from the other slaves there, though - she can read and write. Patsy stutters and walks with a limp, and because of that, everyone thinks she is dull witted. However, she certainly isn't, because she learned to read and write. Her secret is revealed, and she becomes a teacher to the children on the plantation. In the meanwhile, the other people at the plantation are leaving with newly found family, and she wonders if her family will ever come. What will happen to Patsy? This was an excellent book on slavery for ages 10 - 14, and I'd also recommend "A Picture of Freedom", "A Wolf by the Ears", and "Letters from a Slave Girl", other books on slaves that can write.

I really thought this was a great book. I liked the way that it portrayed the life of Patsy in a diary type way. The story is about a slave girl named Patsy who knows how to read. She learned by listening to the children in the house during their lessons. When the slaves were freed, they were promised

that a teacher would come to the plantation to teach the children as well as the adults to read and write. When there was trouble with getting a teacher, Patsy decided to teach the children and who ever else wanted to be taught their abc's and how to write them. She discovered that she was a good teacher and when she finally left the plantation she went to school and became a teacher herself. I think this is a very good book to have children read so they can get a feel of what it was like in the times of slavery and right after they were freed.

This is a beautiful book for many reasons, all of which are more complex than the basic plot. The overall theme of the story is huge: what it means - for anyone - to be free. Historically, Patsy's tale explains that once the Civil War was over, slaves didn't necessarily just walk off the plantations; they didn't always know where to go or what to do. Next, literacy is essential to and cherished by Patsy. We modern readers take it for granted that we know how to read yet it was illegal for slaves. Also, how we are given or choose our names connects with the book's theme of freedom. Patsy wants no part of her name to be associated with the misery of the Davis Plantation, so she ponders throughout the book what a suitable replacement will be. She is, after all, free to do that. Other reviewers have complained about lack of action, or a slow plot. I recommend thinking of the action as being cerebral, and in that regard it is action-packed. Joyce Hansen wrote a beautiful book.

The book is one of the best Dear America books I have ever read. The condition was terrible. It came with a big wet water stain. White stuff was all over the book. I dare not ask what it was. The ribbon was torn. I would return it but is not worth my time. The book WAS AMAZING! The condition was terrible. They call this 'Like new'. I've never received a book from that looked like this.

This is the book that turned my daughter into a reader. My daughter wanted her own copy after reading it in school. This was a Christmas gift for her and she is glad to have it her collection. Fast shipping.

I Thought My Soul Would Fly (South Carolina) / 0-590-84913-1 Of all the Dear America books, I believe that this one is the most historically accurate, well-written account to date. I especially recommend this book as a superb insight into the plight of "ex"-slaves immediately following the Civil War; this fictional diary shows clearly that the "free" slaves were in many ways no more free than before. The diary format is believable and well-written here; where the other Dear America books sometimes falter over the diary format, "I Thought My Soul" provides excellent reasoning for

why the narrator has access to writing materials and why she keeps her thoughts in a potentially dangerous diary. Young Patsy quietly and aptly describes life on the plantation in the wake of the Civil War: the rising hopes and dreams, and the disappointing crescendo when it becomes clear that their masters intend to treat them the same as before. The slaves are quiet, firm, and resolute as they calmly demanding legal marriages, proper wages, fair education, and the right to raise their own children as they see fit. The challenges the ex-slaves face are legion, from Southern gangs harassing freemen, to former masters who force illiterate men and women to sign "contracts" which aren't worth the paper they are written on, to Northern 'liberators' who help round up freemen and force them to work off their lodgings before being allowed to leave the plantation. It's made very clear that this new, indentured slavery is indistinguishable from the old slavery. Patsy slowly, painstakingly, teaches herself to read and write, not unlike the real Phyllis Wheatley. And when the masters refuse to provide a teacher for the young children, despite their "contract" which states otherwise, Patsy teaches the young children herself. The love of learning here is tangible, and serves as a reminder that our privilege of literacy is a privilege indeed. ~ Ana Mardoll

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