Who Was Harriet Beecher Stowe

Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe
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"So you're the little woman who wrote the book that made this great war." - Abraham Lincoln to Harriet Beecher Stowe
Uncle Tom's Cabin is an anti-slavery novel published in 1852, which had a profound effect on attitudes toward African Americans and slavery in the U.S. and is said to have "helped lay the groundwork for the Civil War". When a compassionate landowner decides to sell two slaves—Uncle Tom and Eliza—in order to raise funds, the lives of the two slaves follow divergent paths. While Eliza escapes to eventual freedom, Uncle Tom is repeatedly sold until he ends up working on the prosperous Legree plantation, where his very life becomes forfeit to his violent master. This book is credited with helping fuel the abolitionist cause in the 1850s. A True Classic and Required Reading for all Lovers of American History!

ABOUT THE BOOK
Harriet Beecher Stowe was one of the most important authors of the nineteenth century. Her book, Uncle Tom's Cabin transformed the way Americans thought about the institution of slavery and was read by people all over the world. Stowe said that the death of her own mother at a young age gave her sympathy towards the situation of slaves, who were often separated from their own family members. Stowe's book galvanized the abolition movement, and may have even helped begin the American Civil War. Harriet Beecher Stowe was the daughter of a Congregational minister and her strong faith was evident in her writings. Stowe believed that supporting the abolition movement was a moral imperative for a Christian person, and her work inspired others to join the movement. Her life was remarkable, especially for a woman in the nineteenth century. In a time when women were expected to live their lives in private, Stowe became an international celebrity. The royalties from the sale of her famous book even helped to support her family, something that was unheard of in her day. Women were also discouraged from having strong opinions in the nineteenth century, especially about something as controversial as the practice of slavery. Yet, Stowe broke all of the rules of her society and made a large difference in her own world. EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK
Religion was always an integral part of the life of Harriet Beecher Stowe. The Beecher children received a strong religious education from their father growing up. Not surprisingly, all seven of her brothers went on to careers in ministry. Her brother, Henry Ward Beecher became a famous Presbyterian minister, and published anti-slavery and temperance pamphlets. As a young girl in the summer of 1825, Stowe made a public declaration of her own faith. Following one of her father's sermons, Stowe resolved to become a Christian and devote her life to God. When she married Calvin Stowe, she found a partner who also had firm spiritual convictions. Soon after their marriage, Stowe gave birth to twin daughters Eliza Taylor and Harriet Beecher in 1836. Harriet, called "Hattie," was an enthusiastic child, while Eliza liked to be home with their mother. Later in their lives, Hattie would travel with her mother on her extensive book and lecture tours. In 1838, Stowe gave birth to her first son, Henry Ellis. Buy a copy to keep reading!

CHAPTER OUTLINE
Biography of Harriet Beecher Stowe + Introduction + Early Life + Major Accomplishments and Awards + The Personal Life of Harriet Beecher Stowe + and much more
First published in book form in 1852, Uncle Tom's Cabin quickly became a bestseller, recognised as a powerful contribution to anti-slavery debates. After more than 150 years, it remains one of the most widely discussed works of American literature. Debra Rosenthal: *examines the life and career of Harriet Beecher Stowe *sets the novel within its cultural contexts and reprints related documents from the period *surveys criticism of the book from publication to the present *reprints extracts from reviews and key critical texts *annoates crucial passages from the novel, linking them to the contextual and critical materials included elsewhere in the sourcebook *suggests directions for further reading. Bringing together a wealth of material with clear critical commentary, Debra Rosenthal offers the ideal starting point for anyone beginning to study this crucial American novel.

Harriet Elisabeth Beecher Stowe (June 14, 1811 - July 1, 1896) was an American abolitionist and author. Her
novel Uncle Tom's Cabin (1852) was a depiction of life for African Americans under slavery; it reached millions as a novel and play, and became influential in the United States and United Kingdom. It energized anti-slavery forces in the American North, while provoking widespread anger in the South. She wrote more than 20 books, including novels, three travel memoirs, and collections of articles and letters. She was influential for both her writings and her public stands on social issues of the day. Harriet Elisabeth Beecher was born in Litchfield, Connecticut, on June 14, 1811. She was the seventh of 13 children, born to outspoken religious leader Lyman Beecher and Roxana (Foote), a deeply religious woman who died when Stowe was only five years old. Roxana's grandfather was General Andrew Ward of the Revolutionary War. Her notable siblings included a sister, Catharine Beecher, who was an educator and author, as well as brothers who became ministers: including Henry Ward Beecher, who became a famous abolitionist, Charles Beecher, and Edward Beecher. Harriet enrolled in the seminary (girls' school) run by her sister Catharine, where she received a traditionally "male" education in the classics, including study of languages and mathematics. Among her classmates there was Sarah P. Willis, who later wrote under the pseudonym Fanny Fern. At the age of 21, she moved to Cincinnati, Ohio to join her father, who had become the president of Lane Theological Seminary. There, she also joined the Semi-Colon Club, a literary salon and social club whose members included the Beecher sisters, Caroline Lee Hentz, Salmon P. Chase, Emily Blackwell, and others. It was in that group that she met Calvin Ellis Stowe, a widower and professor at the seminary. The two married on January 6, 1836. He was an ardent critic of slavery, and the Stowes supported the Underground Railroad, temporarily housing several fugitive slaves in their home. They had seven children together, including twin daughters. Solomon Northup, author of Twelve Years a Slave, dedicated his book to Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of Uncle Tom's Cabin. He respected the work she'd done in slave literature, and he hoped to follow in those footsteps. This volume includes the life and letters of Stowe, edited by American writer Annie Fields. Learn about the history of Harriet Beecher Stowe, a formidable woman whose actions and works influenced the Civil War, one of the most life-changing times in the history of the United States, and a movement that divided a nation. "So you're the little woman who started this big war," Abraham Lincoln is said to have quipped when he met Harriet Beecher Stowe. Her 1852 novel Uncle Tom's Cabin converted readers by the thousands to the anti-slavery movement and served notice that the days of slavery were numbered. Overnight Stowe became a celebrity, but to defenders of slavery she was the devil in petticoats. Most writing about Stowe treats her as a literary figure and social reformer while downplaying her Christian faith. But Nancy Koester's biography highlights Stowe's faith as central to her life -- both her public fight against slavery and her own personal struggle through deep grief to find a gracious God. Having meticulously researched Stowe's own writings, both published and un-published, Koester traces Stowe's faith pilgrimage from evangelical Calvinism through spiritualism to Anglican spirituality in a flowing, compelling narrative. Reproduction of the original: Aunt Phillis ?s Cabin by Mary H. Eastman "So you're the little woman who wrote the book that made this great war." -Abraham Lincoln to Harriet Beecher Stowe Uncle Tom's Cabin; or, Life Among the Lowly, is an anti-slavery novel by American author Harriet Beecher Stowe. Published in 1852, the novel had a profound effect on attitudes toward African Americans and slavery in the U.S. and is said to have "helped lay the groundwork for the Civil War". Stowe, an active abolitionist, featured the character of Uncle Tom, a long-suffering black slave around whom the stories of other characters revolve. The sentimental novel depicts the reality of slavery while also asserting that Christian love can overcome something as destructive as enslavement of fellow human beings. It is credited with helping fuel the abolitionist cause in the 1850s. The impact attributed to the book is great, reinforced by a story that when Abraham Lincoln met Stowe at the start of the Civil War, Lincoln declared, "So this is the little lady who started this great war." The book and the plays it inspired helped popularize a number of stereotypes about black people. These include the affectionate, dark-skinned "mammy"; the "pickaninny" stereotype of black children; and the "Uncle Tom", or dutiful, long-suffering servant faithful to his white master or mistress. In recent years, the negative associations with Uncle Tom's Cabin have, to an extent, overshadowed the historical impact of the book as a "vital antislavery tool." A True Classic and Required Reading for all Lovers of American History! Largely descriptive of the St. John's river region of Florida. Examines the life of the nineteenth-century author famous for the novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which denounced slavery and intensified the disagreement between the North and South. It is the best known book about American slavery, and was so incendiary upon its first publication in 1852 that it actually ignited the social flames that led to Civil War less than a decade later. What began as a series of sketches for the Cincinnati abolitionist newspaper The National Era scandalized the North, was banned in the South, and ultimately became the bestselling novel of the 19th century. Today, controversy over this melodramatic tale of the dignified slave Tom, the brutal plantation owner Simon Legree, and Stowe's other vividly drawn characters continues, as modern scholars debate the work's newly appreciated feminist undertones and others decry it as the source of enduring stereotypes about African Americans. As one of the most influential books in U.S. history, it deserves to be read by all students of literature and of the American story. American abolitionist and author HARRIET BEECHER
STOWE (1811-1896) was born in Connecticut, daughter of a Congregationalist minister and sister to abolitionist theologian Henry Ward Beecher. She wrote more than two dozen books, both fiction and nonfiction. Featuring critical and biographical portraits of notable figures of the American Civil War, Patriotic Gore remains one of Edmund Wilson's greatest achievements. Considered one of the 100 Best Nonfiction books by The Modern Library. Figures discussed include Harriet Beecher Stowe, Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, William Tecumseh Sherman, and Oliver Wendell Holmes, among many others. Original edition published: Boston: A. D. Phelps, 1849. FINALIST FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD IN NONFICTION Solitary is the unforgettable life story of a man who served more than four decades in solitary confinement—in a 6-foot by 9-foot cell, 23 hours a day, in notorious Angola prison in Louisiana—all for a crime he did not commit. That Albert Woodfox survived was, in itself, a feat of extraordinary endurance against the violence and deprivation he faced daily. That he was able to emerge whole from his odyssey within America's prison and judicial systems is a triumph of the human spirit, and makes his book a clarion call to reform the inhumanity of solitary confinement in the U.S. and around the world. Arrested often as a teenager in New Orleans, inspired behind bars in his early twenties to join the Black Panther Party because of its social commitment and code of living, Albert was serving a 50-year sentence in Angola for armed robbery when on April 17, 1972, a white guard was killed. Albert and another member of the Panthers were accused of the crime and immediately put in solitary confinement by the warden. Without a shred of actual evidence against them, their trial was a sham of justice that gave them life sentences in solitary. Decades passed before Albert gained a lawyer of consequence; even so, sixteen more years and multiple appeals were needed before he was finally released in February 2016. Remarkably self-aware that anger or bitterness would have destroyed him in solitary confinement, sustained by the shared solidarity of two fellow Panthers, Albert turned his anger into activism and resistance. The Angola 3, as they became known, resolved never to be broken by the grinding inhumanity and corruption that effectively held them for decades as political prisoners. He survived to give us Solitary, a chronicle of rare power and humanity that proves the better spirits of our nature can thrive against any odds. Contains biographical sketches of women whose achievements have contributed to the nation's history. Rethinking Uncle Tom thoroughly explains Uncle Tom's Cabin as an articulation of the conditions of democratic life and the nature of modern humanism. The most mature elements of Stowe's political thought emerge from a close reading of Sunny Memories and of Oldtown Folks. This book develops familiarity with the moral discourse of abolition and nineteenth-century reformism, and it offers a glimpse of an America envisioned as producing a nobility of soul represented in the human model of surpassing excellence. The Cambridge Companion to Harriet Beecher Stowe establishes new parameters for both scholarly and classroom discussion of Beecher Stowe's writing and life. This collection of specially commissioned essays provides new perspectives on the frequently read classic Uncle Tom's Cabin, as well as on topics of perennial interest, such as Stowe's representation of race, her attitude to reform, and her relationship to the American novel. The volume investigates Stowe's impact on the American literary tradition and the novel of social change. Contributions also offer lucid and provocative readings that analyze Stowe's writings through a variety of contexts, including antebellum reform, regionalism, law and the protest novel. Fresh, accessible, and engaged, this is the most up to date introduction available to Stowe's work. The volume, which offers a comprehensive chronology of Stowe's life and a helpful guide to further reading, will be of interest to students and teachers alike. The story of Tom, Simon Legree, and oppressed slaves in the Antebellum South. Traces the life of Harriet Beecher Stowe, delving into her relationships with her father, husband, and brother; discussing her influence on her literary career; and showing how the social and political climate in which she grew up shaped her work. "Up to this year I have always felt that I had no particular call to meddle with this subject. But I feel now that the time is come when even a woman or a child who can speak a word for freedom and humanity is bound to speak." Thus did Harriet Beecher Stowe announce her decision to begin work on what would become one of the most influential novels ever written. The subject she had hesitated to "meddle with" was slavery, and the novel, of course, was Uncle Tom's Cabin. Still debated today for its portrayal of African Americans and its unresolved place in the literary canon, Stowe's best-known work was first published in weekly installments from June 5, 1851 to April 1, 1852. It caused such a stir in both the North and South, and even in Great Britain, that when Stowe met President Lincoln in 1862 he is said to have greeted her with the words, "So you are the little woman who wrote the book that created this great war!" In this landmark book, the first full-scale biography of Harriet Beecher Stowe in over fifty years, Joan D. Hedrick tells the absorbing story of this gifted, complex, and contradictory woman. Hedrick takes readers into the multilayered world of nineteenth century morals and mores, exploring the influence of then-popular ideas of "true womanhood" on Stowe's upbringing as a member of the outspoken Beecher clan, and her eventful life as a writer and shaper of public opinion who was also a mother of seven. It offers a lively record of the flourishing parlor societies that launched and sustained Stowe throughout the 44 years of her career, and the harsh physical realities that governed so many women's lives. The epidemics, high infant mortality, and often disastrous medical practices of the day are portrayed in moving detail, against the backdrop of western expansion,
and the great social upheaval accompanying the abolitionist movement and the entry of women into public life. Here are Stowe's public triumphs, both before and after the Civil War, and the private tragedies that included the death of her adored eighteen month old son, the drowning of another son, and the alcohol and morphine addictions of two of her other children. The daughter, sister, and wife of prominent ministers, Stowe channeled her anguish and her ambition into a socially acceptable anger on behalf of others, transforming her private experience into powerful narratives that moved a nation. Magisterial in its breadth and rich in detail, this definitive portrait explores the full measure of Harriet Beecher Stowe's life, and her contribution to American literature. Perceptive and engaging, it illuminates the career of a major writer during the transition of literature from an amateur pastime to a profession, and offers a fascinating look at the pains, pleasures, and accomplishments of women's lives in the last century. Recounts the eventful, creative life of the author of Uncle Tom's Cabin, highlighting her familial ties and many friendships and reassessing her literary achievement and importance. The author of Hawthorne in Concord “brings [Stowe] to life in all her glory, in a book at once so dramatic and so subtle that it rivals the best fiction” (Debby Applegate, author of The Most Famous Man in America). Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin forced an ambivalent North to confront the atrocities of slavery, yet it was just one of many accomplishments of the Beechers, the most eminent American family of the nineteenth century. Historian Philip McFarland follows the Beecher clan to the boomtown of Cincinnati, where Harriet's glimpses of slavery across the Kentucky border moved her to pen Uncle Tom's Cabin. We meet Harriet's loves: her father Lyman, her husband Calvin, and her brother Henry, the most famous preacher of his time. As McFarland leads us through Harriet's ever-changing world, he traces the arc of her literary career from her hard-scrabble beginnings to her ascendency as the most renowned author of her day. Through the portrait of a defining American family, Loves of Harriet Beecher Stowe opens into an unforgettable rendering of mid-nineteenth century America in the midst of unprecedented social and demographic explosions. To this day, Uncle Tom's Cabin reverberates as a crucial document in Western culture. “Often dismissed even by her admirers as a pious faculty wife who just happened to write the book of the century, Harriet Beecher Stowe emerges in Philip McFarland's biography in all her complexity and genius.” —Charles Calhoun, author of Longfellow: A Rediscovered Life and The Gilded Age. Traces the life of Harriet Beecher Stowe, describes the impact of her most famous novel, and discusses her family background. Through the publication of her bestseller Uncle Tom’s Cabin, Harriet Beecher Stowe became one of the most internationally famous and important authors in nineteenth-century America. Today, her reputation is more complex, and Uncle Tom's Cabin has been debated and analysed in many different ways. This book provides a summary of Stowe's life and her long career as a professional author, as well as an overview of her writings in several different genres. Synthesizing scholarship from a range of perspectives, the book positions Stowe's work within the larger framework of nineteenth-century culture and attitudes about race, slavery and the role of women in society. Sarah Robbins also offers reading suggestions for further study. This introduction provides students of Stowe with a richly informed and accessible introduction to this fascinating author. Harriet Beecher Stowe was certainly a pioneer of her time, as an abolitionist and as a woman, when she wrote the famous antislavery novel Uncle Tom's Cabin. In 1867, Stowe relocated to Mandarin, Florida, to escape the pressures of her antislavery writing and to deal with personal issues. In Florida, she immersed herself in programs to educate former slaves and black children, and supervised the organization of an Episcopalian church. The author centers his work on Stowe's time in Florida from 1867 to 1884 and what emerges is a view of a lesser-known side of Harriet Beecher Stowe. Such questions as why she moved to Florida, how she was received in the South after the Civil War, and what attracted her to Florida are discussed, as well as her role as an early activist for environmental protection.