

## SYNOPSIS

The story starts with the description of the time and place Frederick Douglass is born. Actually Douglass does not know the exact date when he is born. He only knows from his master that during 1835, he is about seventeen years old. Then Douglass describes the identity of his mother and his father, although it is not clear either who exactly is his father, and the life he undergoes after the death of his mother.

After that Frederick Douglass depicts how life is during slavery, in which concerns the description of the plantation, the oppressive condition of the slaves and the basic evil of slavery.

When Douglass is between seven and eight years old, his master sends him to Baltimore to Mr. Hugh Auld's house, the brother to Mr. Anthony's son-in-law. There Douglass takes a companion to Mr. Auld's son, Tommy Auld. In this house Mrs. Lucretia Auld teaches Douglass to read and write although not for long because her husband stops her teaching Douglass. This spites Douglass' lack of how to read and write.

The story continues in the part when Mrs. Lucretia dies. Since then Douglass lives with Master Thomas in St. Michael. Master Thomas is completely different from his brother, Mr. Hugh Auld, in which he is

mean and do not give his slaves enough to eat. One day, Douglass finds out that he can escape for a while to Master William Hamilton, Mr. Thomas Auld's father-in-law, to get something to eat, for Mr. Hamilton always gives his slaves enough. When Mr. Thomas discovers this new habit, he is furious and feels that Douglass is no longer suitable to his purpose. So, he sends Douglass to a well-known slave-breaker, Mr. Edward Covey.

On the 1st of January, 1833, Douglass goes to live with Mr. Covey. This is the first moment Douglass is truly a field hand. Working in a field is such a new work for him, so Douglass does it awkwardly and always makes mistakes. As a result, Covey beats him regularly "I was whipped either with sticks or cowskins every week. Aching bones and a sore back were my constant companions", denies him food and forces all his slaves to work in all weathers .

One day on one of the hottest days of the month of August, 1833, Douglass sufferings reaches its climax when he, with some other slaves, are engaged in fanning wheat. Being unused to such work, Douglass, who have run out of stamina because of long hard work, faints. To revive him, Mr. Covey gives him a series of savage kicks, then strikes him on the head with a hickory slab. That night Douglass struggles seven miles

through the dark to Mr.Thomas' house to beg for his protection. Yet, his master orders him to go back at once.

The turning point of the story comes when Douglass fights back. It is when Douglass is called to go and rub, curry, and feed the horses. While he is working, Mr.Covey enters the stable with a long rope and tries to tie him. Douglass escapes being caught, but he gives a sudden spring and sprawls on the stable floor. He rises and seizes Mr.Covey hard by the throat, and brings Mr.Covey by a sudden snatch to the ground. Mr.Covey gives up treating him badly, and since then Douglass decides to defend himself in the future.

On the January 1st, 1834, Douglass leaves Mr.Covey and lives with Mr.William Freeland, who treats him more kindly. However, the dreams of freedom are still in his mind. Together with his fellow-slaves, Douglass makes an attempt to escape, but it does not succeed. They get caught and are thrown in jail. Again, Douglass' old master, Captain Auld saves him and sends him back to Baltimore to be hired out by Mr.Hugh Auld to Mr.William Gardner, an extensive ship-builder, on Fell's Point, to learn how to calk. A few moment later, Douglass is involved in a fight with some white men. He is sent back to Mr.Hugh Auld.

Douglass, having enough knowledge of calking, starts to collect money. Under the employment of Mr.Hugh Auld and Mr.Butler, Douglass

succeeds in collecting some money to fulfill his dreams in gaining his liberty to realization. So, on the third day of September, 1838, Douglass escapes, and succeeds in reaching New York.