



The Runaway Slave Returns

Carl Waters

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Jim, a runaway slave, used the Underground Railroad to escape the brutal slave system in Kentucky. He then opened a carpentry shop in Montreal. Jim's skill and artistry command high prices, but the money only means one thing—the means to purchase his mother's freedom. Jim plans to bring her to Canada for a better life.

Before Jim can make his move, his friend, Henry, arrives at the shop. Henry has also escaped the yoke of slavery. Barely. If it weren't for the Underground Railroad conductor called "The Bridge Builder," Henry's escape would have surely failed. The runaway slave brings the terrible news that Jim's mother is whipped every day because of Jim's escape. Guilt, pain and shame constantly assault Jim. Knowing he must save his mother now, Jim returns to the South. But, he never imagined that the battle he thought he'd won is truly only beginning...and this time the stakes are higher. This time losing could cost him more than his life!

Can Jim rescue his mother in time?

Can he navigate the Underground Railroad a second time?

Will Jim be able to escape the chains of slavery again?

The Runaway Slave Returns is a short story set in the slavery fiction world of Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin.

The Runaway Slave Returns Details

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Author : Carl Waters

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From Reader Review The Runaway Slave Returns for online ebook

Heather says

I won this book from the Goodreads giveaways. I was really excited to read it and enjoyed the storyline. The plot kept me interested. The only thing that I didn't like was that this was not the entire book. This was a snippet of the story and the authors provided directions on how to order the book in its entirety.

I was frustrated that this was not the entire story, but it was a good marketing move to get their book read and get people interested in purchasing the book. I may have to check it out.

David says

I received this book as a Goodreads First Reads giveaway.

This book is really just a short story and teaser for the author's novel "Burning Uncle Tom's Cabin." The short story and teaser chapters introduce the reader to runaway slaves Jim, his mother, Anita, and unwilling companion George as they try to gain access to the Underground Railroad and make their way north to Canada. It is well written with likeable characters whom you can readily empathize with. Overall, it was an enjoyable read.

Lydia says

The integration of Harriet Beecher Stowe's George into the short story was well done. I haven't read Uncle Tom's Cabin before, but I quickly recognized the names (George, Eliza). In school, we've been studying The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn and so the name Jim quickly brought that book to mind as well. This short story progressed really quickly (it could easily be read in 20 minutes) and the rest of the book is a "sneak peek" into the next part of George's story. I didn't get a lot of the context of Jim's situation at first, but it's pretty obvious that his escape cost his lover's life and that's why he must return for his mother before it's again too late.

I received this book from Goodread's giveaways, thank you! :)

Lydia says

While the characters from this novella do correspond in part with those from the famed classic Uncle Tom's Cabin, I'm pretty sure Harriet Beecher Stowe would be appalled. Her prose fully fleshes out her characters, their lives, their motivations; this writing cannot do her justice. The characters respond superficially, and the reader receives no sense of Stowe's broader universal themes that made and continues to make her book canon literature.

Janice Bates says

Carl Waters has done it again! Another great story in the Burning Uncle Tom's Cabin series! The Runaway Slave Returns is a very well-written short story with characters first introduced in Burning Uncle Tom's Cabin. I highly recommend it.

Therese Wiese says

I never read Uncle Toms Cabin, so some of the character background was a little lost on me. This particular book left me a little short, as it seems to be almost like when you watch movie previews, telling you just enough to get you to come back to see the full movie. Having said that, I will probably pick up his full book "Burning Uncle Tom's Cabin".

I like the author's writing style. Very powerful. Definitely got strong impressions of his characters. His writing style carries that sense of urgency you should be feeling in a story like this. I am looking forward to other work by this author, even though I am only rating this particular book a 3 star.

Thank you to Good Reads for providing a copy of this book for review.

KelB says

Waste of time

Since when is it acceptable to write just one new chapter, pile on chapters from Book 1, and sell it as a stand alone Book 2? What a rip off and complete waste of time.

Russell Goulet says

The copy of The Runaway Slave Returns that I received from the Firstreads program whet my appetite for more. I will track down a copy of Burning Uncle Tom's Cabin so I can discover the rest of the story. Carl Waters writes a compelling story and the tidbit offered leads me to hope for more of the same. He made the characters come to life in a short amount of time.

Patricia Baker says

received this book from Goodreads Giveaway.

short story of slaves trying to find freedom. Jim has come back for his mother to take her to Canada. Underground Railroad hints.

Vanessa says

This book was just a snippet of the actual book called Burning Uncle Tom's Cabin it seems. Although

seemly written in a way that could be for young adults, the story was very interesting. A slave that has escaped to become a freeman in Canada hears about his mother being beaten daily for his escape. Upon hearing that he travels back south to save her from the cruelties she endures, while unknowingly putting others in danger. I felt like there were quite a bit of missing pieces in this. However, it did leave me wanting to buy the other book to find out what happens.

Michelle Wallace says

The Runaway Slave Returns

This is a bit of the backstory of Jim and his mother Anita. We met these two in earlier installments of this series. A good story - I'd love for it to be a good bit longer.

WriteKnight says

4.0 of 5 stars – Interesting Short Lead-In to a Compelling Series.

[I'm excited to have won this as a Goodreads First Read – so thanks, Carl!]

The Runaway Slave Returns was an interesting short story leading into a planned 4-volume series *Burning Uncle Tom's Cabin*. While the first book (carrying the same title as the series) featured George and Eliza Harris, this 23-page short story focused on Jim and Anita. As in all the stories, this one was told from the slaves' POV and with less racial stereotypes than Stowe's story, which made it more approachable, and I think interesting, to today's audience.

The short story is easy-to-read with good pace, and started to give me a good feel for the characters and their circumstances. Unfortunately, it was challenging to build a more in-depth picture; rather, it was more a snapshot. And while it read more as an excerpt than a standalone, it still served well as a set up for the series.

Thankfully, four chapters were also excerpted from the latter half of the first book, which gave still more of an idea of the same compelling slavery fiction world that is more fully explored in the first book. Considering the partial promotional purpose of this short-story package, I'd give this 4 stars for a good effort.
