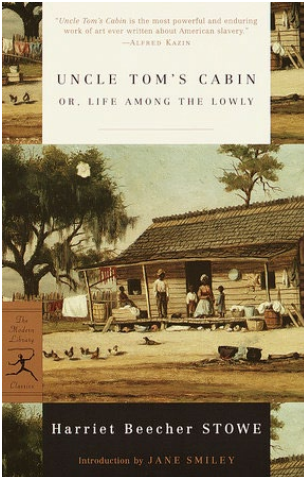


BOOK RESUME: UNCLE TOM'S CABIN



Title: Uncle Tom's Cabin: or, Life among the Lowly

Author: Harriet Beecher Stowe

Imprint: Modern Library

Publisher: Random House Publishing Group

On sale date: January 9, 2001

ISBN: 9780375756931

Format: Paperback

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Uncle Tom's master sells him, separating him from his wife, and he becomes attached to the gentle daughter of his new owner, but after her death, he is sold to the evil Simon Legree.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Although Stowe was both attacked and lauded by her contemporaries for her exposure of the evils of slavery and Southern injustice, her purpose seems to have been larger: to indict the nation for its inadequate efforts to improve life among 'the lowly.' On the one hand, Simon Legree, the brutal slavemaster, is a New Englander who has gone South only to indulge in his baser instincts. On the other hand, St. Clare, the benign slaveowner, is an ineffectual but morally sensitive Southerner forced to split apart a black family because of his economic losses. Standing in the middle between these two representative characters is the slave Uncle Tom, the author's Christian hero. The term 'Uncle Tom' has become synonymous with passive, servile behavior, but Stowe's character is dynamic. He saves the life of Little Eva, St. Clare's daughter, and scares Legree, who is desperate to crush Tom's courage and fortitude. Although melodramatic elements often simplify the novel's treatment of complex social and psychological problems, much of the author's story remains relevant to individuals faced with the threat of overwhelming force in any situation. Her work concerns a fundamental question: To what extent can the world be swayed by the force of a moral example?" —*Magill Book Review*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- BBC, [The 100 stories that shaped the world](#) (2018)
- *The Guardian*, [The 100 Best Novels](#) (2014)
- Library of Congress, [Books that Shaped America, 1850-1900 National Book Festival Exhibit](#) (2012)
- [Everyman's Library Classics](#)

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- C-Span, ["Mightier Than the Sword" presentation by David Reynolds](#) (2011)
- Ferris State University Jim Crow Museum, ["The Tom Caricature"](#) (2024)

Updated 09-13-2024

Penguin Random House

Contact BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com

*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

- [Harriet Beecher Stowe Center Collections](#)
- Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, [Stowe's Global Impact](#)
- History.com, [Uncle Tom's Cabin](#) (2023)
- *Humanities*, The Magazine for the National Endowment for the Humanities, "[The First Great American Novel](#)" (2013)
- Library of Congress, [Digital Collection materials \(Subject: Uncle Tom's Cabin\)](#)
- Penguin Random House [Reader's Guide](#)
- University of Virginia, [Uncle Tom's Cabin & American Culture](#) (includes lesson plans, reviews, responses)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

- [Read Banned Books exhibit](#) of The Online Book Page: "In 1857, [Samuel Green](#), a lay minister who had been freed from slavery in 1837, was arrested and charged with 'knowingly having in his possession a certain abolition pamphlet called Uncle Tom's Cabin, of an inflammatory character and calculated to create discontent amongst the colored population of this State.' The Maryland law he was charged with violating carried a minimum jail sentence of 10 years, but Green was eventually freed in 1862 on the condition that he leave the state."
- [UAB Institute for Human Rights Blog](#): "Like all examples of institutional limitations, the most influential books, which have the potential to cause revolutions, are also the most restricted. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by [Harriet Beecher Stowe was banned in the Southern United States in 1852](#) and is traced back as the first example of a book ban. Stowe, a ferocious abolitionist in the North, wrote this book prior to the Civil War to rally abolitionists and swing individuals against the South's slavery. Since the Constitution was written, Northerners decried the South's defense of slavery. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was a powerful tool that amplified the voices of abolitionists across the country; they believed that slavery was a legal injustice in the Constitution that needed to be removed. Plantation owners, however, were able to pull strings and remove the book from circulation in the South, fearing the loss of economic and racial security that slavery gave them." (2023)

AUTHOR STATEMENT

- [A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin](#) (1858)

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