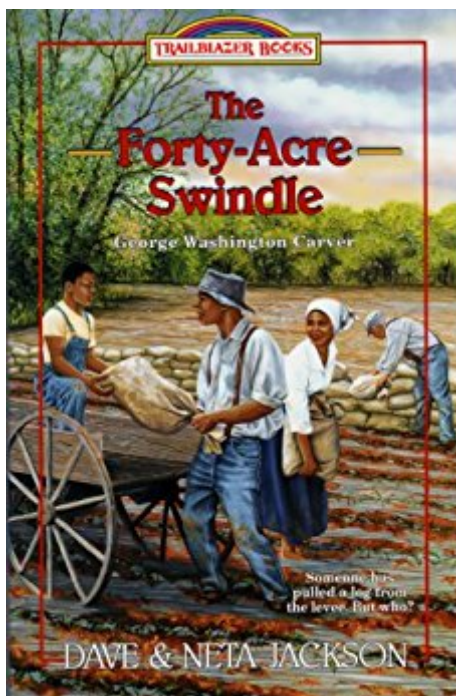


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The Forty-Acre Swindle (Trailblazer Books Book 31)



Synopsis

To fourteen-year-old Jesse Turner, being a free man in Alabama in 1898 doesn't seem much better than slavery. The Turners' forty-acre farm given to them by the government following the Civil War is exhausted from growing cotton, they face overwhelming debt, and trouble from prejudiced neighbors makes life difficult and frightening. It seems the only solution is to sell the land and begin sharecropping. But they find new hope in the teachings of George Washington Carver, a Christian agriculturist who travels the South helping fellow blacks with new farming techniques. Inspired by Carver's advice to hang on to the land at all costs, Jesse takes a part-time job, and he and his father plant a promising crop of soybeans. But as the Turners race to meet the deadline for repaying their debts, they run into a host of new problems. And when the levee suspiciously bursts one night and floods their land, can Jesse find a way to save the family farm? An adventure story, ideal for readers 8-12 years of age.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a quick little book that is geared towards kids about 10, give or take. It took me, an adult, a couple of hours to read the whole thing, but I found it quite the page-turner. Even adults can enjoy the story. This is exactly the type of historical fiction we need more of for kids. It's educational, and it teaches the readers a bit about what life was like for people of color after the civil war. It also introduces George Washington Carver. However, what sets it apart from other educational books for kids is that it is simply a good story. It's fun to read. There is nothing too overtly brutal, and no humans are hurt in this story. One pet is poisoned, but the authors rush past the telling of it. It's there, but it's presented in an extremely non-traumatic way for kids. There is some excellent betrayal in this book though, and I think the authors do a great job at portraying the paternal, condescending attitude many white people adopted with black people. I think the book is very well done, and I will definitely look at the other Trailblazer books to see if they are of similar quality.

Great historical fiction for 2nd to fourth graders. I teach 2nd grade. I used this to teach about George Washington Carver. This exemplifies the importance of G.W. Carver.

I enjoyed the fact that it factually incorporated my ancestor, George Washington Carver. It relays hope and seeking the wisdom of God.

I am not giving this book (1) star I only clicked on that because that was the only way to comment. I am surprised I was asked to review this from because I could never get it downloaded to my Kindle and therefore I did not read it.

Sweet and sad book. Tells of the hard life of black people and how cruel some can be. I would recommend it.

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