



# Abigail's Diary

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It was June 25, 1865, I was working really hard when my Master announces great news. He says, "the people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the U.S., that all slaves are free!"

I was so surprised, and so were all the slaves. We all were singing and laughing for once. We spoke our language for the first time in a long time. We were so happy.

Me and my slave friends knew we were all going to be free. I am happy but scared. I am scared because it is the first time I can do whatever I want. Which is great, but scary, because I haven't been free for five years!

As soon as I got the news I went to Africa and told my parents. My parents were very happy for me, and glad. Me and my parents celebrate at our house! We had a lot of fun!

It was one dark morning. I got up off of the dusty ground. I had a good dream that someday I will be free. I was so mad that they separated me from my mom and sister. I missed them so much. It has been 15 years since I've seen them. I wonder to myself "Will I ever be free?"

I have to do everything for my owner's family, like making them dinner. I am basically her maid, but I have the easy job. People who work outside get whipped or killed if they refuse to work. I wake up at 6:00 in the morning. I take care of 3 boys and 1 girl. I make breakfast, do the dishes, and do the laundry. I haven't had a hot meal in 15 years.

All of a sudden, I saw a group of slaves come running down the hill. They were screaming, "we're free, we're free!". I dropped to my knees and started crying in happiness. There standing right in front of me was my mom and sister. I couldn't believe it. That was the happiest day of my life.

Then I thought "Wait, what does it mean to be free? Where will I live? Where will I work? How do I eat? How do I make money?" I've been a slave for so long. I had a roof over my head. I had food. I was told what to do every single day. Now I don't have anything. I asked a man if he had somewhere to live. He said "Yes". I asked if I could stay with him. He said "Yes, but you have to do something for me". He said "Go rob something from the only food store in the town". I walked into the store. When the boss wasn't looking I quickly snatched some food and ran. The man let me stay as long as I liked. I felt horrible about stealing. I knew it was wrong and I swore I wouldn't do it again.

One morning I saw a job opening. I walked in and said "Is anyone there?". A guy said "Can I help you?". I asked, "Can I get a job here?". He said "Do you have any experience working in a restaurant?". I said "Yes, I've taken care of all of the cooking and cleaning for the last 15 years." He looked at me and told me I could start working right now. I made 5 dollars a day. I had good meals and nice clothes. But I thought to myself "There's one more thing that needs to be done." I walked back into the only food store in town. I gave the man 20 dollars and said

# Freedom at Last

Dear diary

The men yelled at us today we were too tired to work they made us farm day and night the men laughed while we cried the pain of the whip on my shoulder felt like the pain of waking up knowing you are not ever going to be free and happy.

I make a prayer every day and night i say please let us be free of this sadness help us be strong again but nobody heard me. we wake up at 4:00 in the morning to clean and to feel sorrow inside but the worst part is losing hope every single day we eat scraps of food i feel like a pig in a cage .i just don't understand why they do this we all human and we need freedom we need to wake up knowing everything will be fine but that can't be.

There was screaming and crying i can hear them 12 feet away i feel so...weak i want to do something but i can't . my dreams are of everyone being free and then i remind myself don't get your hopes up you will feel much worse pain.

Everyone is crying tears of joy jumping up and down say the word i thought no one would say we're free we are finally free!! I went down on my knees and yelled thank you!

So loud my throat hurt but i didn't care because i knew he will help me . i ran to the chief and i said you were wrong telling me or any of us well never be free but take look around you you see happiness and kindness that is something you will never have. I walked out and i walked with everyone- and i let god show me the way to go and now look at us we are free at last.

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