

My Folks Don't Want Me To Talk About Slavery

Slavery is undoubtedly one of the darkest chapters in human history. It is a painful reminder of the inhumane treatment and oppression faced by millions of enslaved people for centuries. However, speaking and learning about this topic is important to ensure we never forget the atrocities committed and work towards a more just future. Unfortunately, not everyone is comfortable discussing slavery, even within close circles such as family and friends.

Why is the Topic of Slavery Uncomfortable?

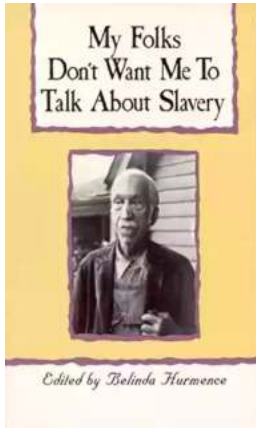
There are various reasons why some individuals, including our own family members, may avoid discussing slavery. Historical guilt, avoidance of unpleasant stories, or lack of awareness can contribute to this discomfort. Rather than brushing aside such discussions, it's crucial to confront these uncomfortable feelings and engage in open and honest conversations about this painful history.

The Importance of Remembering and Learning from Slavery

Although talking about slavery may make some people uncomfortable, it is essential to address this topic to ensure that history does not repeat itself. Understanding the root causes, systemic racism, and the long-lasting effects of slavery is necessary for fostering empathy, promoting racial equality, and dismantling the remnants of this shameful past. Moreover, by openly discussing this history, we can create a safe and inclusive space for marginalized communities to share their experiences and heal.

**My Folks Don't Want Me To Talk About Slavery:
Personal Accounts of Slavery in North Carolina**

by Steven Elliott (Kindle Edition)



★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 257 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 90 pages



Learning from the past helps to shape a better future. Recognizing the contributions of enslaved peoples and their resilience in the face of extreme adversity is crucial to celebrating their legacy and preventing the erasure of their experiences. By acknowledging the harm done, we can work towards building a society that values diversity, justice, and equality.

Breaking the Silence

If your folks don't want you to talk about slavery, it can be challenging, but it is important to find ways to have these conversations respectfully. Approach the topic in a non-confrontational manner, expressing your desire to learn and understand more about history and its impact on present-day issues. Provide facts, testimonials, and reliable sources to support your argument and engage in thoughtful discussions to address any concerns or misconceptions your family may have.

Encouraging your family to confront the discomfort surrounding the topic of slavery can be an opportunity for growth and learning. Share educational resources, documentaries, or virtual exhibitions that shed light on this critical part of our collective history. By providing information and fostering dialogue, you

might be able to challenge their preconceived notions and encourage a more open and inclusive perspective.

Acknowledge Feelings and Provide Safe Spaces

It is essential to acknowledge and respect the discomfort and emotional weight that talking about slavery may bring up for individuals. Understand that this topic can be traumatic and triggering for many. Create safe spaces for conversations to take place, ensuring that everyone feels heard, validated, and respected.

Encourage family members to share their feelings openly and honestly, fostering an environment of empathy and understanding.

Education and Empathy

It is vital to emphasize education and empathy when discussing slavery. By providing historical context, sharing personal stories, and engaging with diverse perspectives, you can help your family understand the significance of this topic and its relevance to contemporary issues. Encourage empathy by highlighting the shared humanity and the responsibility we all have to combat racism and discrimination.

The Journey to Healing

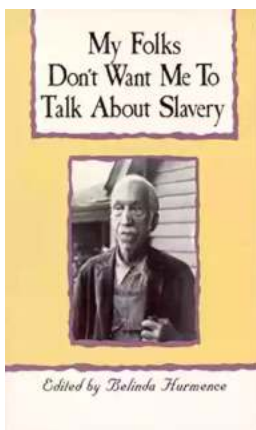
Engaging in honest conversations about slavery can contribute to the healing process for individuals and communities affected by historical trauma. By acknowledging the pain and injustice of the past, we create a space for healing, understanding, and reconciliation. Remember, healing is an ongoing journey that requires patience, vulnerability, and active listening.

Celebrating Triumphs and Resilience

While slavery represents a dark chapter in history, it is also important to celebrate the triumphs, resilience, and accomplishments of enslaved individuals and their

descendants. By honoring the contributions and achievements of those who fought against slavery and its legacies, we can rewrite the narrative and inspire future generations to continue the fight for justice and equality.

Conversations about slavery may be uncomfortable, especially when our own folks don't want to talk about it. However, by breaking the silence, providing education, empathy, and safe spaces, we can contribute to a more inclusive society that acknowledges the pain, learns from history, and works towards healing and reconciliation. Let us come together to dismantle the barriers that prevent open dialogues about slavery, ensuring that its lessons are never forgotten.



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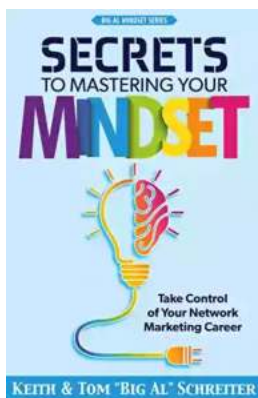


Former slaves themselves—an important but long-neglected source of information about the institution of slavery in the United States. Who could better describe what slavery was like than the people who experienced it? And describe it they did, in thousands of remarkable interviews sponsored by the Federal Writers' Project during the 1930s. More than 170 interviews were conducted in

North Carolina. Belinda Hurmence pored over each of the North Carolina narratives, compiling and editing 21 of the first-person accounts for this collection.

Belinda Hurmence was born in Oklahoma, raised in Texas, and educated at the University of Texas and Columbia University. She has written several novels for young people, including *Tough Tiffany* (an ALA Notable Book), *A Girl Called Boy* (winner of the Parents' Choice Award), *Tancy* (winner of a Golden Kite Award), and *The Nightwalker*.

She has also edited *We Lived in a Little Cabin in the Yard* and *Before Freedom, When I Just Can Remember*, companion volumes to this book. She now lives in Raleigh, North Carolina.



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