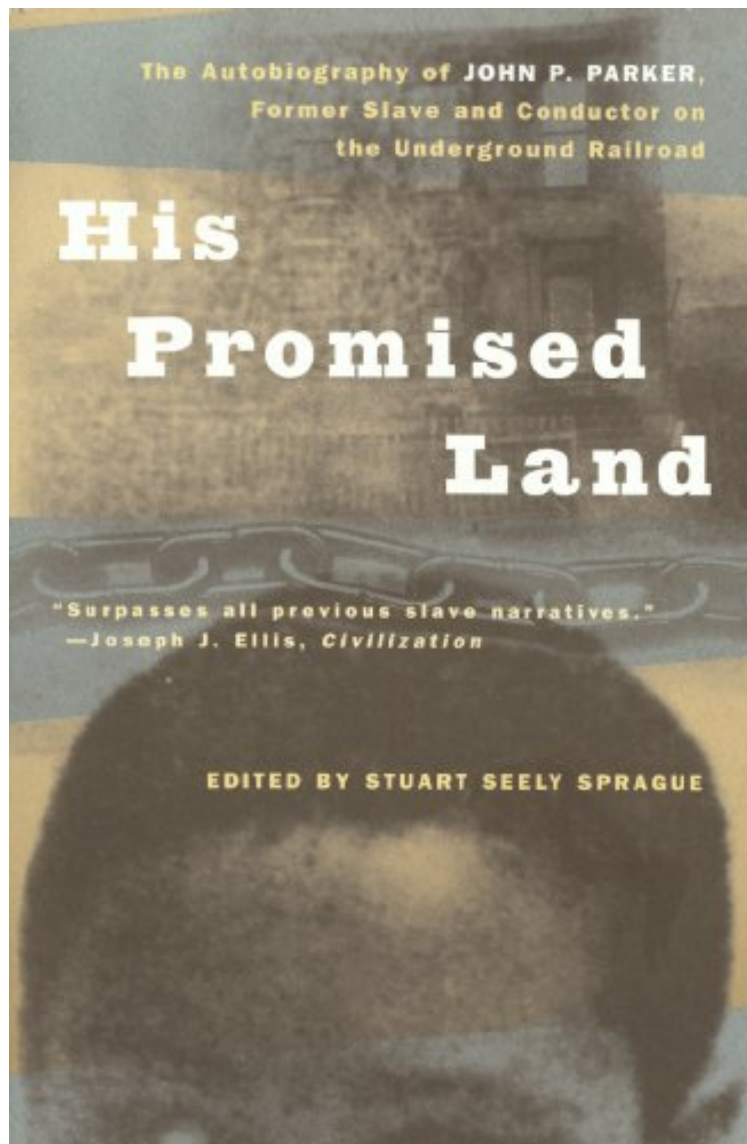


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His Promised Land: The Autobiography of John P. Parker, Former Slave and Conductor on the Underground Railroad: The Autobiography of John P.Parker, Former ... and Conductor on the Underground Railroad

Von John P. Parker

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Von John P. Parker : His Promised Land: The Autobiography of John P. Parker, Former Slave and Conductor on the Underground Railroad: The Autobiography of John P. Parker, Former ... and Conductor on the Underground Railroad before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised His Promised Land: The Autobiography of John P. Parker, Former Slave and Conductor on the Underground Railroad: The Autobiography of John P. Parker, Former ... and Conductor on the Underground Railroad:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Engrossing account of the Underground RailroadVon Ein KundeJohn Parker's autobiography is an engrossing and often surprising account of the activities of the Underground Railroad. Parker was born and lived as a slave until buying his freedom and moving to Ripley, Ohio. There he joined forces with Rev. John Rankin in helping slaves cross the Ohio River and escape to Canada. His account is lucid, swift-moving, rambunctious, and highly literate. He describes the Ohio River Valley as "the Borderland," comparing it to the lawless, violent Scots/English border. The border, constantly raided by Abolitionists helping steal men, women, and children out of slavery and patrolled by slave-owning vigilantes intent on catching them, simmers in as treacherous a state of unrest and violence as any "Wild West" town at its worst. Parker never walks the streets of Ripley without a pistol, knife, and black jack in his belt. He never admits to working for the Underground Railroad, especially after passage of the Fugitive Slave Law in 1850, but pretty much everyone in the region knows that he does, putting his life in constant danger.Parker's account abounds in hair-breadth escapes, heart-rending failures, and startling heroics. He also reveals aspects of the Underground Railroad that one never suspects but which seem inevitable after he describes them, such as the competition that developed between John Rankin's Ripley, Ohio branch of the Railroad and Levi Coffin's Cincinnati group. Parker insists that Coffin was merely the better publicist, not the better rescuer of the two. It's also clear that for Parker rescuing slaves was not merely a fierce moral imperative but also an activity touched with excitement, zest--even, strange as this sounds, fun. There is an element of sport to his activities, despite their grim, life and death seriousness. Parker is obviously bold, intelligent, crafty--good at what he does--and he relishes the hard-won triumphs of courage and guile that allow him to free his fellow slaves.It's hard to say what place qu! ot;His Promised Land" will take in American literature. It will not, I don't think, replace Frederick Douglass's "Narrative of an American Slave" as the country's premier account of the experience of slavery. It's not as powerful, relentless, or literarily self-conscious an account as Douglass's great work. But it may prove to be, for the Underground Railroad, what Sam Watkins's "Co. Aytch" is for the Civil War: perhaps the most engaging, colorful, and moving account by an 'ordinary extraordinary' man in one of this country's most agonizing and dramatic conflicts.

Kurzbeschreibung"Surpasses all previous slave narrativesUsually we need to invent our American heroes. With the publication of Parker's extraordinary memoir, we seem to have discovered the genuine article." Joseph J. Ellis, CivilizationIn the words of an African American conductor on the Underground Railroad, His Promised Land is the unusual and stirring account of how the war against slavery was foughtand sometimes won. John P. Parker (18271900) told this dramatic story to a newspaperman after the Civil War. He recounts his years of slavery, his harrowing runaway attempt, and how he finally bought his freedom. Eventually moving to Ripley, Ohio, a stronghold of the abolitionist movement, Parker became an integral part of the Underground Railroad, helping fugitive slaves cross the Ohio River from Kentucky and go north to freedom. Parker risked his lifehiding in coffins, diving off a steamboat into the river with bounty hunters on his trailand his own freedom to fight for the freedom of his people..deJohn Parker was born a slave in Virginia but managed to buy his freedom. He hated the injustice of slavery, and so for about 20 years before the Civil War devoted his life to the dangerous work of helping other blacks escape to freedom. This is one of only a few accounts of a black American's fight against slavery in his own words. Unpublished for nearly a century, it brings to life the American frontier of the mid-18th century in as thrilling a fashion as any John Ford film or historical novel.PressestimmenRiveting. . . Astonishing and believable. -- Nell Irvin PainterRiveting. . . Astonishing and believable.--Nell Irvin PainterJohn P. Parker was an extraordinary man . . . a person who spent much of his life facing racial battles yet saw the world through colorblind eyes. . . . As a slave seeking escape and then as a free man aiding others, fighting 'my own little personal war on slavery, ' [Parker] lived a perpetual Perils of Paul and did so with unending zest. . . . Now he can be given his due. --Jonathan Yardley"Riveting. . . Astonishing and believable. --Nell Irvin Painter"A rip-roaring adventure yarn. . . . History of the best kind.John P. Parker was an extraordinary man...He seems to have been that true American rarity, a person who spent much of his life facing racial battles yet saw the world through colorblind eyes...He lived a perpetual Perils of Paul and did so with unending zest...Now he can be given his due.--Jonathan YardleyRiveting...Astonishing and believable.--Nell Irvin PainterA rip-roaring adventure yarn...History of the best kind.