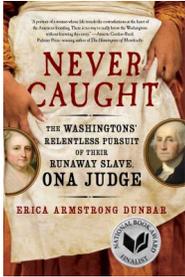


Books by the Stack



Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge by Erica Dunbar

A revelatory account of the actions taken by the first president to retain his slaves in spite of Northern laws profiles one of the slaves, Ona Judge, describing the intense manhunt that ensued when she ran away.

Why you'll like it: *Thought-provoking. Accessible. Journalistic.*

About the Author: Erica Armstrong Dunbar is the Charles and Mary Beard Professor of History at Rutgers University. She has been the recipient of Ford, Mellon, and Social Science Research Council fellowships and is an Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer.

Questions for Discussion

1. Ona Judge was born during the era of the American Revolution and spent her childhood at Mount Vernon. Was Ona's life typical of other enslaved children?
2. What do we know about Ona Judge's lineage? What does it tell us about race, slavery and sex in the eighteenth century?
3. How do George and Martha Washington become slaveholders? In what ways are they similar as slaveholders and how do they differ?
4. In 1789, George Washington is elected president and moves to New York. Who accompanies him and how does New York differ from Virginia?
5. How does Ona's life change once she is taken to New York and Philadelphia? What kinds of responsibilities are placed upon her shoulders and how are they different from Ona's work in Virginia?
6. What do we know about slavery and freedom in Philadelphia? How does it differ from New York? What kind of effect does the free black community have on Ona's life?
7. How do George and Martha Washington manage their slaves while living in Philadelphia?
8. What prompts Ona to escape from slavery? How does she do it?
9. George and Martha Washington attempt to recapture their runaway slave. What was surprising about their efforts?
10. What does Ona's story tell us about the lives of fugitive slaves? How does her life change in New Hampshire? What are some of the new challenges that Ona faced?

11. When you compare the lives of Ona Judge and Philadelphia Costin, what is most striking? What do their lives tell us about slavery and freedom in America?

(Questions provided by the publisher)



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