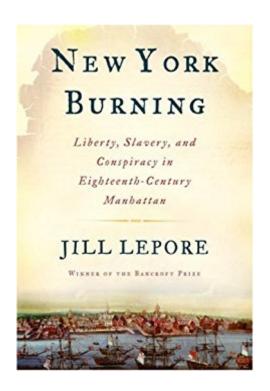
The book was found

New York Burning: Liberty, Slavery, And Conspiracy In Eighteenth-Century Manhattan





Synopsis

Pulitzer Prize FinalistAnisfield-Wolf Award WinnerOver a frigid few weeks in the winter of 1741, ten fires blazed across Manhattan. With each new fire, panicked whites saw more evidence of a slave uprising. In the end, thirteen black men were burned at the stake, seventeen were hanged and more than one hundred black men and women were thrown into a dungeon beneath City Hall. In New York Burning, Bancroft Prize-winning historian Jill Lepore recounts these dramatic events, re-creating, with path-breaking research, the nascent New York of the seventeenth century. Even then, the city was a rich mosaic of cultures, communities and colors, with slaves making up a full one-fifth of the population. Exploring the political and social climate of the times, Lepore dramatically shows how, in a city rife with state intrigue and terror, the threat of black rebellion united the white political pluralities in a frenzy of racial fear and violence. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

File Size: 10254 KB

Print Length: 352 pages

Publisher: Vintage (December 18, 2007)

Publication Date: December 18, 2007

Sold by: A Random House LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0012D1DKA

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #516,388 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #107 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > United States > African American #379 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > United States > Colonial Period #530 in Books > History > Americas > United States > History

Customer Reviews

Jill Lepore's "New York Burning: Liberty, Slavery, and Conspiracy in Eighteenth-Century Manhattan" is a valuable and admirable examination of one of the darkest episodes in New York's history: the so-called slave rebellion of 1741 and the brutal vengeance that was extracted. Professor Lepore's

painstaking research confronts the reader with a terrible conclusion: even the most respectable of people in society will consent to the deaths of human beings, based on even the tiniest shreds of evidence. Focusing primarily on the actions of Daniel Horsmanden, the City's Recorder, Lepore provides the reader with a background on the attitudes of New York's whites toward their slaves. She makes clear that Gotham was neither the first nor only city to have witnessed slave uprisings. (It had suffered a similar uprising a couple of decades earlier.) But the events of 1741 were unique for several reasons:--the shifting finger-pointing at various groups;--the inconsistency of Mary Burton's testimony, which essentially was the case against several slaves;and--Horsmanden's bizarre behavior toward Mary Burton. Admittedly, I've only superficially studied this dark time in New York's history, so I was shocked to learn that there were actually several "conspiracies": the Negro Plot, Hughson's Plot, the Spanish Plot, the Roman Plot, etc. Each plot was hatched depending on who confessed to what. Worst of all, the white population of New York--fueled by racism, xenophobia, paranoia, and, not the least of all, bloodlust--went right along with it. And, with the exception of an intriguing anonymous letter from Massachussetts, it seems the rest of the colonies went along with it, too.

The subject of American slavery presents numerous challenges to the modern historian, not the least of which is its heterogeneous nature. The experience of a slave on a rice plantation in the Carolinas certainly would have contrasted that of a slave on a tobacco plantation in Maryland. Temporal, geographic, and other less grounded factors might have influenced the condition of human servitude in colonial and post-Revolution America. The distinction of urban slavery in the eighteenth century, particularly in the north, is relatively understudied. In New York Burning, Jill Lepore recreates early eighteenth century Manhattan, recounting the decisions of the court, the common talk on the streets, the comings and goings of sloops of trade and war, the livelihoods of its people, the menace of slavery, and a conspiracy that threatened to burn the city to the ground. The books is truly a great read, but objectivity and fact are sometimes brought out of focus making for interesting but questionable conclusions. Though the use of literary license, which is scattered between summary of the conspiracy trial and its proceedings, helps to contextualize events and enliven eighteenth century New York in the mind of the reader, it sometimes borders on fictive. The summer of 1941 is characterized in an imagined description: "The wind blew hot. In the streets, hogs sweated and dogs panted, seeking the shade of doorways and market awnings and the smooth coolness of the marble steps of fashionable houses."(Lepore, 171) The language animates the New York heat, working to contrast with the previous winter which was described in stylistically

similar prose, however as hogs cannot sweat, some of the magic is lost.

Download to continue reading...

New York Burning: Liberty, Slavery, and Conspiracy in Eighteenth-Century Manhattan Streetwise Manhattan Bus Subway Map - Laminated Metro Map of Manhattan, New York - Pocket Size (Streetwise Maps) Eighteenth-Century Utopian Fiction (Studies In Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Literature Series) The New York Times Monday Through Friday Easy to Tough Crossword Puzzles: 50 Puzzles from the Pages of The New York Times (New York Times Crossword Puzzles) The New York Times Acrostic Puzzles Volume 9: 50 Challenging Acrostics from the Pages of The New York Times (New York Times Acrostic Crosswords) Streetwise Central Park Map - Laminated Pocket Map of Manhattan Central Park, New York for Travel The Burning of the Valleys: Daring Raids from Canada Against the New York Frontier in the Fall of 1780 Caste, Society and Politics in India from the Eighteenth Century to the Modern Age (The New Cambridge History of India) Transformations in Slavery: A History of Slavery in Africa (African Studies) Native America: A Concise Guide To Native American History - Native Americans, Indian American, Slavery & Colonization (Crazy Horse, Custer, Slavery, American Archaeology, Genocide, Aztec) The Enlightenment and the Book: Scottish Authors and Their Publishers in Eighteenth-Century Britain, Ireland, and America Corruption and Racketeering in the New York City Construction Industry: The Final Report of the New York State Organized Crime Taskforce Pop-Up NYC Map by VanDam -City Street Map of New York City, New York - Laminated folding pocket size city travel and subway map, 2016 Edition (Pop-Up Map) Merchants of Canton and Macao: Politics and Strategies in Eighteenth-Century Chinese Trade Sovereign Power and the Enlightenment: Eighteenth-Century Literature and the Problem of the Political (Transits: Literature, Thought & Culture, 1650-1850) Agriculture in Britain and America, 1660-1820: An Annotated Bibliography of the Eighteenth-Century Literature (Bibliographies and Indexes in World History) The New York Times Tons of Puns Crosswords: 75 Punny Puzzles from the Pages of The New York Times The New York Times Guide to the Best 1,000 Movies Ever Made (Film Critics of the New York Times) The New York Times Supersized Book of Sunday Crosswords: 500 Puzzles (New York Times Crossword Puzzles) The New York Times Sunday Crossword Puzzles Volume 41: 50 Sunday Puzzles from the Pages of The **New York Times**

Dmca