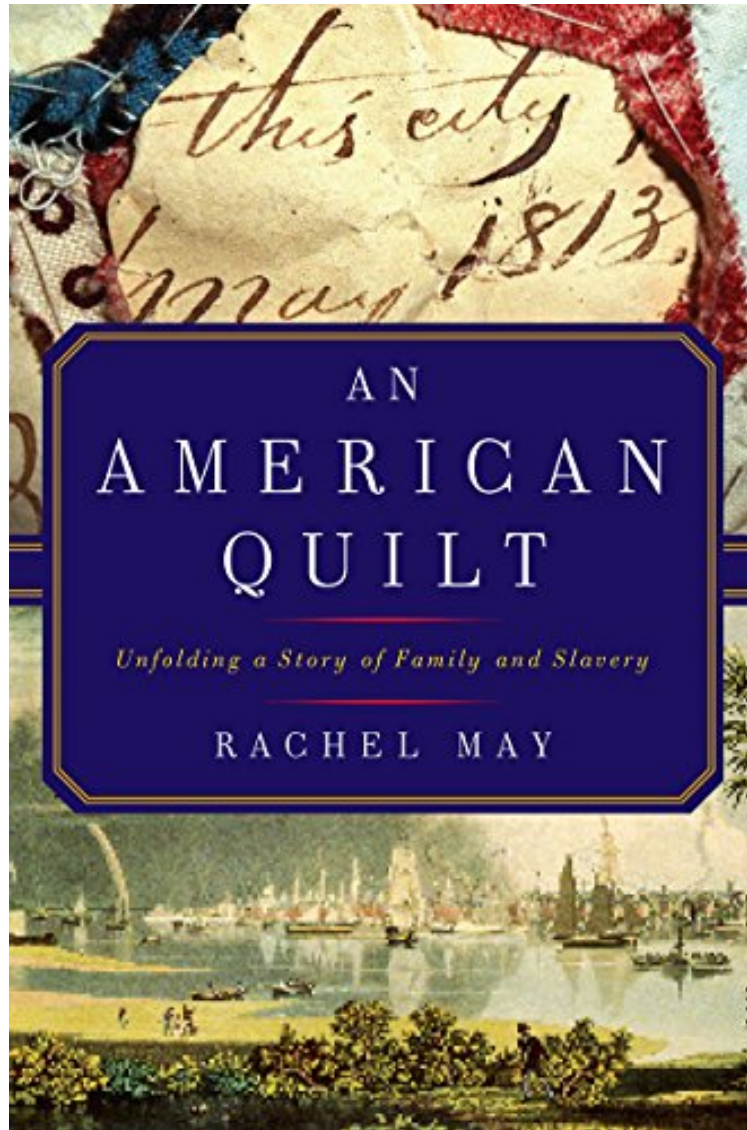


[Download pdf] An American Quilt: Unfolding a Story of Family and Slavery

## An American Quilt: Unfolding a Story of Family and Slavery

*Rachel May*

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**Rachel May : An American Quilt: Unfolding a Story of Family and Slavery** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An American Quilt: Unfolding a Story of Family and Slavery:

Following the trail left by an unfinished quilt, this illuminating saga examines slavery from the cotton fields of the

South to the textile mills of New England and the humanity behind it. When we think of slavery, most of us think of the American South. We think of back-breaking fieldwork on plantations. We don't think of slavery in the North, nor do we think of the grueling labor of urban and domestic slaves. Rachel May's rich new book explores the far reach of slavery, from New England to the Caribbean, the role it played in the growth of mercantile America, and the bonds between the agrarian south and the industrial north in the antebellum era all through the discovery of a remarkable quilt. While studying objects in a textile collection, May opened a veritable treasure-trove: a carefully folded, unfinished quilt made of 1830s-era fabrics, its backing containing fragile, aged papers with the dates 1798, 1808, and 1813, the words sugar, rum, casks, and West Indies, repeated over and over, along with friendship, kindness, government, and incident. The quilt top sent her on a journey to piece together the story of Minerva, Eliza, Jane, and Jubah the enslaved women behind the quilt and their owner, Susan Crouch. May brilliantly stitches together the often-silenced legacy of slavery by revealing the lives of these urban enslaved women and their world. Beautifully written and richly imagined, *An American Quilt* is a luminous historical examination and an appreciation of a craft that provides such a tactile connection to the past. BW illustrations throughout

Marvelous. May captures the viewpoints and opinions of the creators who have made modern quilting into an enduring form of expression. Belongs in all quilting collections. - *Library Journal* (starred) [praise for 'Quilting with a Modern Slant'] May serves as an enthusiastic introducer, teacher, and cheerleader. - *Publishers Weekly* [praise for 'Quilting with a Modern Slant'] About the Author Rachel May is the author of *Quilting with a Modern Slant*, which was a *Library Journal* and *.com* "Best Book of the Year." Her writing has received multiple awards, and she has been the recipient of residencies at the Millay Colony and the Vermont Studio Center. She's an assistant professor at Northern Michigan University and lives in Marquette, Michigan.