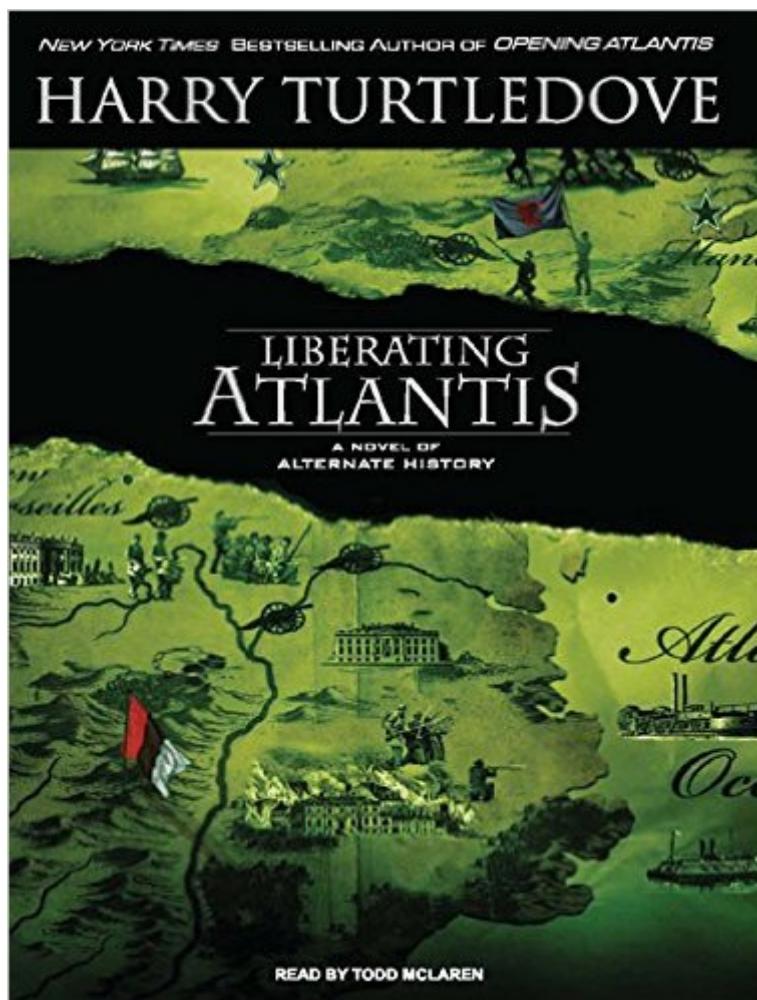


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Liberating Atlantis: A Novel Of Alternate History



Synopsis

Frederick Radcliff is a descendant of the family that founded Atlantis's first settlement, and his grandfather Victor led the army against England to win the nation's independence. But he is also a black slave, unable to prove his lineage, and forced to labor on a cotton plantation in the southern region of the country. Frederick feels the color of his skin shouldn't keep him from having the same freedoms his ancestors fought and died for. So he becomes the leader of a revolutionary army of slaves determined to free all of his brethren across Atlantis.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the third in the "Atlantis" series from Harry Turtledove which currently consists of 1) "Opening Atlantis" 2) "The United States of Atlantis" 3) This book, "Liberating Atlantis". This series looks at the history of the United States through the prism of an alternative history world in which there is a large island or small continent in the mid Atlantic. The first book described the discovery of the island, named Atlantis, and its early history, which bore a remarkable resemblance to that of the US colonies up to about the Seven Years War. The second book essentially tells the story of the American War of Independence but translates it onto the island of Atlantis. This book tells the story of how slavery came to be abolished through a civil war in the mid-nineteenth century, though the parallels with real history are not nearly as close as in the second book. During that second book, the character who corresponds to the historical George Washington had an affair with a black slave.

girl, which resulted in the birth of a son."Liberating Atlantis" begins two generations later. Frederick Radcliffe, grandson of the general who defeated the British and gained freedom for White Atlanteans, is a house slave on a plantation in one of the southern states of Atlantis. He doesn't usually dare use his famous surname within the hearing of his master or other whites because slaves are not supposed to have surnames.

A thing to keep in mind, though the book jackets don't make this nearly clear enough, is that Liberating Atlantis is the third novel in a trilogy. That said, while not qualifying quite as a stand alone, one doesn't HAVE to have read the first two novels. Liberating Atlantis is Harry's vision of what would have happened had Southern slaves in our country taken up arms in an organized way and fought a revolution against their white enslavers. The slave leading the uprising is Frederick Radcliff, grandson of Victor (the main character in the previous installment). He was born and raised a slave, and by middle age he was entrenched in his life there. Then, by an accident of fate (a warped floorboard), his life changed....and days later he took advantage of an outbreak of yellow fever, obtained a cache of guns, and started an uprising. Nat Turner, with better luck, in other words. The Atlantean army, led by Consuls Newton (a northerner sympathetic to the revolution) and Stafford (a fire eating southerner) is dispatched to fight him. The novel's inner monologues are from these three men, with their differing viewpoints. And therein lies the issue: Those monologues, along with Radcliff's conversations with his chief advisor and his wife, and Newton and Stafford with each other, are so repetitive and one note as to be exasperating. Radcliff, when he's not talking about strategy, bitches about his life as a slave (understandable mind you), while Stafford keeps ranting about how blacks are inferior to whites and how dare they revolt. Newton is meant to be the one in the middle, the voice of reason, and while he pulls it off....well I got tired of it all after 200 pages. And that's not even halfway through the book. Add to that a telegraphed ending.....

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