



THE PROMISE

By Dawn Comer Jefferson and Dr. Rosanne Welch

Based on a true story and told from the point of view of 9 year old Mary, *The Promise* is a historical chapter book for children ages 7-11 about a slave family who survive the dangers of the Oregon Trail in the 1850s. Promised freedom if they helped their master make the journey, when they reached Oregon the master freed her parents but kept Mary and her younger brother as slaves. Mary's parents sued for custody and thanks to Mary's brave testimony and a judge with abolitionist tendencies, the Holmes vs. Ford case helped determine whether Oregon entered the Union as a slave – or a free – state.

Amazon Customer Reviews

“Informs and educates while engaging the heart.”

“This is a moving, meaningful story not to be missed.”

“A must have for the young reader in your life but, like the best children’s books, is equally enjoyed by adults.”

“This engaging children’s novel sheds light on a lesser known component of slavery in this country’s history. White families venturing west on the Oregon Trail often brought their slaves with them and faced a complex set of laws and perhaps an unexpected attitude when they reached their destination. The story’s protagonist, nine year old Mary, shows incredible strength, but learns valuable lessons about honesty – within herself and others – and the capabilities of human character along her journey.”

About the Authors

Rosanne Welch, PhD, is a professor of African American studies at Mount San Antonio College in Walnut, California. She has written for television (*Touched by an Angel*, *Picket Fences*) and print (*Three Ring Circus: How Real Couples Balance Marriage, Work and Family* and *The Encyclopedia of Women in Aviation and Space*). In the documentary world she wrote and produced *Bill Clinton and the Boys Nation Class of 1963* for ABC NEWS/Nightline and consulted on PBS's *A Prince Among Slaves*, the story of a prince from West Africa who was enslaved in the 1780s, freed by order of President John Quincy Adams in the 1820s and returned to his homeland.

Dawn Comer Jefferson is an Emmy nominated television writer whose credits include *Judging Amy*, *South of Nowhere*, the *Los Angeles Holiday Celebration* for Public Television and *Our Friend, Martin*, an animated film about the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. With Rosanne Welch, Dawn co-edited the nonfiction book, *Three Ring Circus: How Real Couples Balance Marriage, Work, and Family* (Seal Press).

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