



book is about more than slavery but also the generations afterward and what became of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemming's descendants or supposed descendants because no one will ever know for sure. Given how men tend to be, I think that although Jefferson did not believe the two races should "mingle" he did quite a bit of "mingling" with Sally Hemmings. I was disappointed to read how ordinary Jefferson was as a plantation owner and while he may have had innovative ideas about farming, he seemed to be the typical slave owner - no better nor worse. But he did provide a lot of specific training for his slaves which they found useful when they were free and many continued on in the same trade they had learned in slavery - often from highly successful professionals and artists. They would not have had exposure to these elite folks without Thomas Jefferson. In any case I found the book highly readable and very interesting and would like to know more. Which is the sign of a good book!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Jefferson has had a good reputation and in meanwhile using slaves to get richBy Customerwhat an awful business man,I bought 2 books about him ....Jefferson has had a good reputation and in meanwhile using slaves to get rich,scandalous0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Sandra Nunez KalarovichGreat read

Our perception of life at Monticello has changed dramatically over the past quarter century. The image of an estate presided over by a benevolent Thomas Jefferson has given way to a more complex view of Monticello as a working plantation, the success of which was made possible by the work of slaves. At the center of this transition has been the work of Lucia "Cinder" Stanton, recognized as the leading interpreter of Jefferson's life as a planter and master and of the lives of his slaves and their descendants. This volume represents the first attempt to pull together Stanton's most important writings on slavery at Monticello and beyond. Stanton's pioneering work deepened our understanding of Jefferson without demonizing him. But perhaps even more important is the light her writings have shed on the lives of the slaves at Monticello. Her detailed reconstruction for modern readers of slaves' lives vividly reveals their active roles in the creation of Monticello and a dynamic community previously unimagined. The essays collected here address a rich variety of topics, from family histories (including the Hemingses) to the temporary slave community at Jefferson's White House to stories of former slaves' lives after Monticello. Each piece is characterized by Stanton's deep knowledge of her subject and by her determination to do justice to both Jefferson and his slaves. Published in association with the Thomas Jefferson Foundation.

I have great admiration for these varied pieces, and the title essay is simply magisterial. I doubt it will ever be bettered. It is a remarkably empathetic piece, recovering the inner world of slaves and their myriad connections to their owner. (Philip D. Morgan, Johns Hopkins University, author of *African American Life in the Georgia Lowcountry: The Atlantic World and the Gullah Geechee*)Invaluable (New York Times)About the AuthorLucia Stanton is Shannon Senior Historian at the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello.