

APPENDIX 1

BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN RIDLEY

He is born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Ridley graduated from Homestead High School in Mequon, Wisconsin in 1982. He enrolled in Indiana University, but transferred to New York University. At the age of about 15, he wants to become writing. He is an American screenwriter, novelist, film director and writer for *12 Years a Slave* screenplay. He won an Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay in 2013.

During his study in college, Ridley performed *Stand Up Comedy* and *The Tonight*. He began to write for television sitcoms as *Martin*. After both writing and directing his film debut, the 1997 crime thriller *Cold Around the Heart*, he and Oliver Stone co-adapted Ridley's first novel, *Stray Dogs* (still unpublished when Stone bought the rights into the 1997 Stone-directed film *U Turn*, which was released slightly earlier than *Cold Around the Heart*. Ridley went on to write the novels *Love Is a Racket* and *Everybody Smokes in Hell*. His novel *Spoils of War* was adapted into the 1999 David O. Russell-directed *Three Kings*. Ridley's original script was rewritten by Russell and Ridley, with Ridley receiving a "story by" credit negotiated among himself, Russell and the releasing studio, Warner Bros. Ridley then became a writer and a supervising producer on the NBC crime-drama *Third Watch*. His other novels are *The Drift*, *Those Who Walk in Darkness* and *A Conversation with the Mann*. He also wrote the graphic novel *The American Way*.

His work as screenwriter also includes *12 Years a Slave*, *Red Tails*, and *Undercover Brother*. His script for *12 Years a Slave* won the 2014 Academy

Award for Best Adapted Screenplay, making Ridley the second African-American to win the award after Geoffrey S. Fletcher for *Precious: Based on the Novel "Push" by Sapphire*. He is currently working on writing and creating the next installment in the ever-growing Marvel Cinematic Universe: a TV show for ABC, and Marvel Studios based on an already established Marvel Comics character.

APPENDIX II

SYNOPSIS OF 12 YEARS A SLAVE

Solomon Northup as a free nigger lived in Saratoga, New York. He was born in July 1808. He was educated man to a competence in reading and writing. Additionally, He learned to play a fiddle. He married Anne Hampton, and they settled down to raise a family. Solomon worked in many trades, including farming, lumberjacking and performing on the violin. They had two children.

In July 1841, Solomon met two white men who worked in circus. They offered him work with a circus. Unsuspecting, he joined them to travel in Washington D.C. In Washington D.C., after a day of unusual revelry and drinking, became terribly ill. When he woke up, Solomon Northup was alone, chained in darkness. He finds himself a prisoner in the slave pen of James Burch, a brutal slave trader in Washington, D.C. When Solomon protests his captivity and asserts his right to freedom, Burch responds by beating him into submission and threatening to kill him if he ever mentions his freedom again. At length, Solomon is allowed to join the other slaves being held by Burch, and he discovers just how hopeless his situation is. Surrounded by slaves and a few other kidnap victims, he is transported downriver, eventually landing in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Solomon and the rest of “Burch’s gang” are transferred into the slave pen of Burch’s associate, Theophilus Freeman. Freeman changes Solomon’s name to “Platt,” thereby erasing any connection to his past. Solomon is put up for sale, but his sale is delayed when he contracts smallpox, which nearly kills him. After he

finally recovers, he is sold, along with a slave girl named Eliza, to a man named William Ford.

Solomon is now a full-fledged slave named "Platt," working on the plantation and lumber mill of William Ford, deep in the heart of Louisiana. Ford is a kindly master, devout in his Christian faith, and given to generosity toward his slaves. Solomon finds it almost a pleasure to be in Ford's service and even figures out a way for Ford to save considerable time and money by transporting lumber via waterway instead of by land. Solomon is well-liked by Ford in return. However, a series of financial missteps result in Ford selling Platt to a cruel carpenter named John M. Tibcats.

Tibcats soon becomes Platt's worst enemy, constantly threatening and berating him. While working on a project, Tibcats becomes so enraged that he attempts to whip Platt. Platt is the stronger of the two, though, and he turns the tables on his new master, whipping him instead. Hell-bent on revenge, Tibcats twice attempts to murder Platt. Only the intervention of William Ford and his overseer, Mr. Chapin, saves the slave's life. Unable to kill him, yet bearing murderous hatred toward him, Tibcats sells Platt to the notorious "nigger breaker," Edwin Epps.

on the ten years he lived under the tyranny of Edwin Epps on two different plantations in Bayou Boeuf, along the banks of the Red River in Louisiana. Epps is indeed a cruel master. A whip is his constant companion, and he uses it almost daily on his slaves. Solomon describes his life under Epps in detail, relating stories of abuse, humiliation, and deprivation among all the slaves.

Patsey, a slave girl, gets the worst of Epps' treatment: She is repeatedly raped by him and also whipped by him at the insistence of his jealous wife. At the worst

point, she visits a friend at a nearby plantation simply to get a bar of soap because Epps' wife won't allow her to have any. When Patsey returns, Epps is furious, thinking her guilty of a sexual encounter. Platt is forced to whip a naked, helpless Patsey while she screams for mercy.

The years pass by, and Solomon almost loses hope. Then he meets a carpenter named Bass, an abolitionist from Canada who is hired to work on a building project for Epps. Bass learns of Solomon's story and decides to help. He sends letters to Solomon's friends in the North, asking them to come and rescue the slave from his captivity.