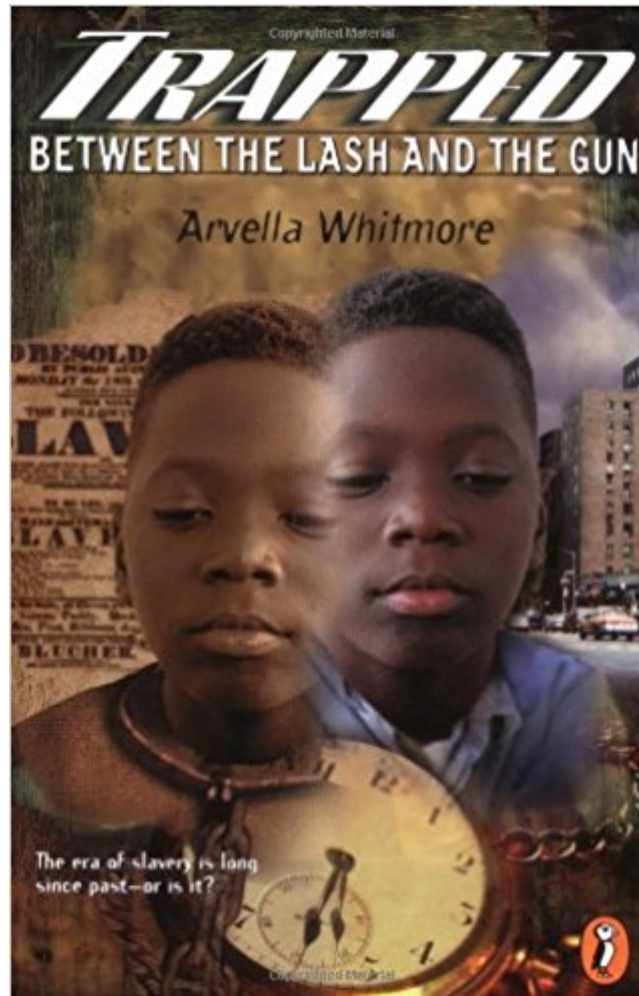


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# Trapped Between The Lash And The Gun



## Synopsis

Jordan is going to join a gang. But just as he's about to start his future with the Cobras, his past calls him back. Way back--to the nineteenth-century, where he meets his ancestors and gets a bitter taste of what life was like for them as slaves. Jordan must live with the constant threat of the whip's lash. His journey back in time will strike a chord with any young person who has felt trapped by hard times and difficult choices.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

From its lurid title to its lackluster plotting and prose, this time-slip fantasy of an African-American boy who travels back to the antebellum South to be taught the lessons of slavery firsthand delivers far less than the premise might suggest. In order to become a full-fledged member of the Cobra gang, 12-year-old Jordan must raise the money for a gun. He steals his grandfather's gold watch, which once belonged to the slaveholder who owned one of Jordan's forebears. On his way to the pawnshop, Jordan rushes through an underpass and suddenly finds himself on a Southern plantation. Whitmore (*The Bread Winner*) touches upon many of the evils of slavery?backbreaking labor, squalid living conditions, physical punishment, auctions, death, even, glancingly, miscegenation?but with the formulaic writing and superficial characterizations, readers are not likely to be moved. The lesson that Jordan takes back to the city?that gangs are the contemporary version of slavery?may be a profound one, but here it seems facile and unconvincing. Ages 11-up. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable

edition of this title.

Grade 5-8-Determined not to move to an integrated suburb, 12-year-old Jordan Henning Scott plans to run away and live with his newfound gang friends, but the heirloom watch he steals from his grandfather to finance this venture transports him back in time. Finding himself in the old South, Jordan meets Uriah, a slave boy who takes him to the Henning plantation. Jordan is presumed to be a runaway slave, put to exhausting work picking cotton, and whipped when he collapses. After he tries to run away, he is sold to a slave trader and then bought by a sympathizer who gives him freedom papers and promises to send him to Canada if he will return to the Henning plantation and convince Uriah to leave. The master, who turns out to be Uriah's father, had recently brought the boy into the big house and given him his watch for safekeeping. When Jordan finds the watch again, he is returned to his own time. Left behind, Uriah takes the papers and Jordan's name to Canada and becomes Jordan's great-great-great-great-grandfather. Readers who can overlook awkward dialogue and an unlikely plot will be caught up in the boy's efforts to survive and appropriately appalled by the details of daily life. The premise of a modern eye looking at the grim realities of slavery was used more successfully, but for older readers, by Octavia Butler in *Kindred* (Beacon, 1988); *Trapped*, however, might intrigue readers looking for quick-moving historical fiction. Kathleen Isaacs, Edmund Burke School, Washington, DC Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Great book !

*Trapped Between the Lash and the Gun* is a story about a young man about to join a gang. As part of the initiation into the gang, this African-American youth has to buy a gun. To get money for this gun, he steals his grandfather's watch - a prized family heirloom which has been passed down through his family since the days of slavery. As he walks to the pawn shop with the watch in his hand, he is suddenly transported back to the days of slavery in the old South. Not knowing how to survive this brutal time period, not knowing the rules of survival as a slave, he must learn to survive long enough to get back to the present. I have taught this novel in my eighth grade language arts class for several years. It has been accorded the highest honor as my students ask - "Can we read *Trapped Between the Lash and the Gun*" again, today? What a joy to teach a book that students eagerly read and enjoy. In the process, this book teaches that gang-life and slavery are one and the same. They both operate on the basis of fear and brutality while binding one to a system where

there is no escape.

One of the best young people books!! I have bought 10 of these for my classes and hope to purchase more!

It is an excellent story tale which combines the subject of time-travel with real-life issues we hear about in the presence connected to a dark past.

I did the audio version of this book and stumbled on it when searching for other novels narrated by Allyson Johnson. At first, I hesitated because after reading the publisher's summary about a young boy named Jordan joining a gang, I was not interested in the story line. When I discovered that young Jordan would be going back in time to discover the history of his ancestors, it captured my attention. I am happy to say that I was NOT disappointed. Arvella Whitmore did an excellent job entertaining me with this delightful story. This story is one that could be helpful to youngsters willing to listen. The story definitely helps one appreciate how you do not know how much you fail to appreciate something until you lose it. Young Jordan certainly learned this valuable lesson, especially after learning about the life of his ancestors. Thumbs up to this book! You will not be disappointed. It is well worth the listen.

i thought this was a racist book. like black teens get involved in gangs because they don't know about slavery, right? if they only new, if they only had kindly white folks to remind them then they'd get it, right? and slaveowners and plantation slaves are just the perfect comparison to make regarding gangs and gang leaders to drive the point home to them, right? and centuries of racism just has nothing, nothing to do with it, right? the description of slave life is taken from the old slave stories btw. you can read them directly without this book. i reccommend julius lesters works instead of this book.

Brilliant! We chose Trapped for our 9 year old son because we thought it would reinforce what my wife and I are working to teach him as an up and coming young African-American man. Arvella Whitmore weaved a powerful comparison between slavery of human beings and the self-imposed slavery of our minds, low self-esteem, taking short cuts, and gravitating to people and institutions that tell us what we want to hear instead of what we need to hear. Jordan's disinterest in his family's recent history (his father) and past history placed him in a position to potentially experience a

personal version of Slavery of his own creation. My son Micah, gave me an assignment after he read Trapped. "Dad, you read this book." I not only understood the book, I felt the story and the characters. I held my breath, felt the lash, cried and held hands with them as they did all they could to become free!

Rufus Curry, Jr. Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army

Author: ã ã One Week Gig ã ã or[...]

A boy by the name of Jordan Scott has got himself in big trouble. Jordan's friends are bad news, and his family does not know about them. Jordan has a little sister by the name of Tachelle, and Jordan's mom is always on his case. Jordan's dad had left a while ago, and Jordan is mostly on his own. Jordan hangs out with a gang called the "Cobras." Jordan needed to get money fast for a gun, and he did not have any. Jordan went to visit his grandpa, and he remembered that he always talked about a watch that he had. Jordan's grandpa said it was passed down through generations from the slave years. Jordan figured that it would be worth a lot of money. Jordan went to his grandpa's house, and stole the watch. Jordan didn't want to, but he had to. If Jordan didn't, he would probably die. Jordan had to hurry up and take it, so he wouldn't be late. While walking down the street in the dark, he heard a loud clicking noise coming from the watch. All of a sudden, Jordan was light headed, and felt like he was going to pass out. Jordan was all of a sudden in the middle of nowhere. Jordan went back to the slave years some how. Will Jordan survive as a slave, and will he be able to go back to his own world, or will he be stuck there forever?

What I liked about this book was that it was very adventurous. There was no dull moment throughout the whole book. What I didn't like was how the story was set up, because some parts did not make since. The people who would like this book would be anybody. There are mixes of boy and girl characters, so either boys or girls would be eligible to read this book. Any boy or girl, twelve and up can read this book. I have not read any other books by this author, but I am looking forward to it.

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