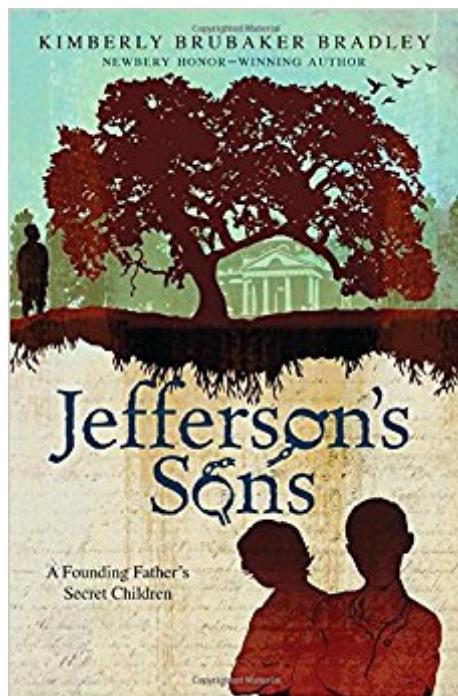


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# Jefferson's Sons: A Founding Father's Secret Children



## Synopsis

Ã  Ä This story of Thomas Jefferson's children by one of his slaves, Sally Hemings, tells a darker piece of America's history from an often unseen perspective—that of three of Jefferson's slaves—including two of his own children. As each child grows up and tells his story, the contradiction between slavery and freedom becomes starker, calling into question the real meaning of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." This poignant story sheds light on what life was like as one of Jefferson's invisible offspring.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0600 (What's this?)

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books (January 10, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142421847

ISBN-13: 978-0142421840

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 63 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #41,431 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 inÃ  Ä Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial #56 inÃ  Ä Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s #69 inÃ  Ä Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

\* Ã¢â ¬Ã“A big, serious work of historical investigation and imagination; the tale has never before been told this well.Ã¢â ¬Ã¢â ¬â • Kirkus, starred review\* Ã¢â ¬Ã“[an] eye-opening and powerful novel.Ã¢â ¬Ã¢â ¬â • The Horn Book, starred review\* Ã¢â ¬Ã“BradleyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s fine characterization and cinematic prose breathe life into this tragic story.Ã¢â ¬Ã¢â ¬â • School Library Journal, starred review\* Ã¢â ¬Ã“BradleyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s sensitive and richly imagined vision pays respect to those who struggled for lives of stability and dignity, even as the whims and fortunes of the Jeffersons shifted beneath them.Ã¢â ¬Ã¢â ¬â • Bulletin of the Center for Childrens Books, starred reviewÃ¢â ¬Ã“This well-researched and moving novel provides insight into their lives as it

raises important and difficult questions. American Library Association “The young innocents” elemental questions raise fundamental issues for the reader. How could founding father Jefferson sell off Maddy’s best friend? What does it mean, “all people are created equal?”

Kimberly Brubaker Bradley lives on a forty-two-acre farm in Bristol, Tennessee.

An excellent book. Again purchased for my (9 yr. old) granddaughter. Full of historical interest, it keeps the reader engaged. Parts are difficult (whipping, selling, or trading of slaves etc.) but are accurate. It is an excellent book, and will most likely spark a variety of questions and discussions. I would also recommend looking into Ms. Bradley’s other excellent books.

Enjoyed this book very much. Love historical fiction and the author did a great job of using the historical facts as much as possible.

This book focuses on how the boys felt about the limited contact they had with their father. Jefferson’s sons with Sally Hemings looked remarkably like him, so much that two had to be sent to his son-in-laws estate when company stayed at Montecello! Well written.

Jefferson’s Sons was an enthralling and emotional read. An historical accounting of President Jefferson’s secret black family told from the point of view of his black children. Although it is historical fiction, it is extremely accurate and very thoroughly researched. Much of the story is based on the letters and journals written by Jefferson’s plantation overseer and by the second of his three black sons. Kimberly Brubaker Bradley does not romanticize the relationship. The reader experiences the cruelty of Jefferson towards his black children - never acknowledging his black children living on his estate, the emotional pain his black children suffered watching Jefferson’s white children and grandchildren growing up with every advantage while his black children worked in his home as servants, the fear they lived with daily of what will become of them when Jefferson dies. The hypocrisy of Jefferson’s political views vs. his personal lifestyle is not lost on Jefferson’s black family. The children sometimes hate their father, sometimes feel sorry for him, sometimes try to love him from afar, but mostly, are ambivalent. They know he did great things for the country, but they don’t understand why he is considered a great man, especially when his black family is the worst kept secret in the country.

Best Historical Fiction I have ever read! In fact I've read it twice!

Very good perspective on American History!

Book was well written!

I loved it! I could read it at least three more times. Although throughout the book it got kinda boring.

Otherwise great book

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