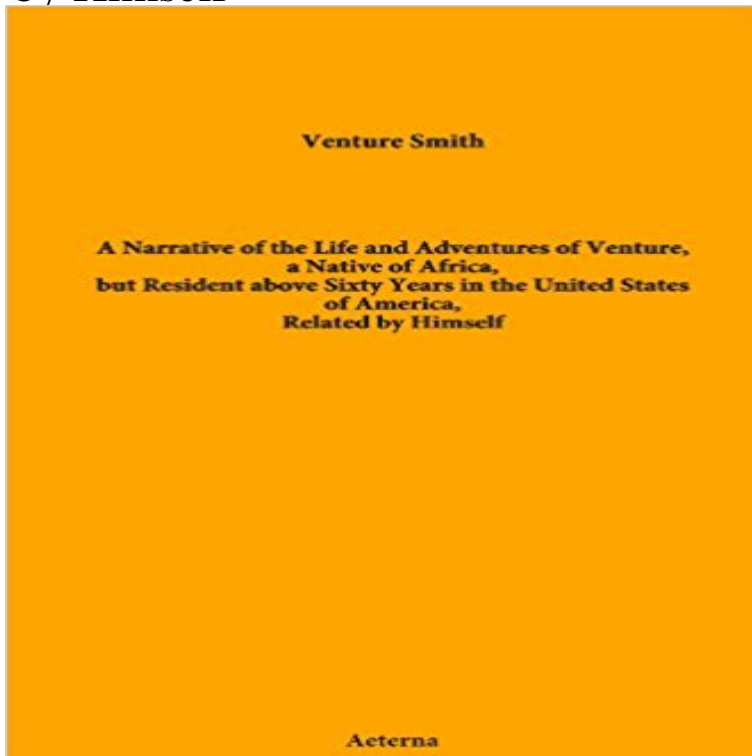


A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture, a Native of Africa, but Resident above Sixty Years in the United States of America, Related by Himself



A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture was written in 1798. Venture Smith (1729-1805) was an African captive brought to the American colonies as a child. His history was documented when he gave a narrative of his life to a schoolteacher, who wrote it down and published it under the title A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture, a Native of Africa: But Resident above Sixty Years in the United States of America, Related by Himself. Venture Smith was born Broteer Furro in a place he recalls as Dukandarra in Guinea--a term that at the time referred to much of West Africa. Clues in the narrative make it clear that he was from the savannah region--and the fact that he was sold at the seaport of Anomabu, in modern Ghana, suggests that he was probably originally from somewhere in modern Ghana, Togo, or Benin. He was the son of a prince who had several wives. As a young child he was kidnapped by a tribe of Africans who were employed by slave dealers. The young boy was purchased by Robertson Mumford for four gallons of rum and a piece of calico. Mumford decided to call him Venture because he considered purchasing him to be a business venture. Ventures ship then set sail for the island of Barbados. Later in his life, Venture managed to earn enough money on the side to buy first his own freedom, then that of his wife and children. A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture is his inspiring story.

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