



Maritcha: A Nineteenth-Century American Girl

Tonya Bolden

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A much-needed window into a little-documented time in black history

Based on an actual memoir written by Maritcha Rémond Lyons, who was born and raised in New York City, this poignant story tells what it was like to be a black child born free during the days of slavery. Everyday experiences are interspersed with high-point moments, such as visiting the U.S.'s first world's fair. Also included are the Draft Riots of 1863, when Maritcha and her siblings fled to Brooklyn while her parents stayed behind to protect their home. The book concludes with her fight to attend a whites-only high school in Providence, Rhode Island, and her triumphant victory, making her the first black person in its graduating class.

The book includes photographs of Maritcha, her family, and friends, as well as archival and contemporary maps, photographs, and illustrations. AUTHOR BIO: Tonya Bolden's books have received acclaim from organizations such as the American Library Association and the New York Public Library, and from publications like *School Library Journal*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *Publishers Weekly*.

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