



The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt

By Charles W. Chesnutt



The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt By Charles W. Chesnutt

Born on the eve of the Civil War, Charles W. Chesnutt grew up in Fayetteville, North Carolina, a county seat of four or five thousand people, a once-bustling commercial center slipping into postwar decline. Poor, black, and determined to outstrip his modest beginnings and forlorn surroundings, Chesnutt kept a detailed record of his thoughts, observations, and activities from his sixteenth through his twenty-fourth year (1874-1882). These journals, printed here for the first time, are remarkable for their intimate account of a gifted young black man's dawning sense of himself as a writer in the nineteenth century.

Though he achieved literary success in his time, Chesnutt has only recently been rediscovered and his contribution to American literature given its due. The only known private diary from a nineteenth-century African American author, these pages offer a fascinating glimpse into Chesnutt's everyday experience as he struggled to win the goods of education in the world of the post-Civil War South. An extraordinary portrait of the self-made man beset by the urgencies and difficulties of self-improvement in a racially discriminatory society, Chesnutt's journals unfold a richly detailed local history of postwar North Carolina. They also show with great force how the world of the postwar South obstructed--and, unexpectedly, assisted--a black man of driving intellectual ambitions.

 [Download The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt ...pdf](#)

The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt

By Charles W. Chesnutt

The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt By Charles W. Chesnutt

Born on the eve of the Civil War, Charles W. Chesnutt grew up in Fayetteville, North Carolina, a county seat of four or five thousand people, a once-bustling commercial center slipping into postwar decline. Poor, black, and determined to outstrip his modest beginnings and forlorn surroundings, Chesnutt kept a detailed record of his thoughts, observations, and activities from his sixteenth through his twenty-fourth year (1874-1882). These journals, printed here for the first time, are remarkable for their intimate account of a gifted young black man's dawning sense of himself as a writer in the nineteenth century.

Though he achieved literary success in his time, Chesnutt has only recently been rediscovered and his contribution to American literature given its due. The only known private diary from a nineteenth-century African American author, these pages offer a fascinating glimpse into Chesnutt's everyday experience as he struggled to win the goods of education in the world of the post-Civil War South. An extraordinary portrait of the self-made man beset by the urgencies and difficulties of self-improvement in a racially discriminatory society, Chesnutt's journals unfold a richly detailed local history of postwar North Carolina. They also show with great force how the world of the postwar South obstructed--and, unexpectedly, assisted--a black man of driving intellectual ambitions.

The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt By Charles W. Chesnutt Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2928804 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Duke University Press Books
- Published on: 1993-10-19
- Released on: 1993-10-19
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .50" w x 6.00" l, .79 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 200 pages

 [Download The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt By Charles W. Chesnutt

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Primarily of interest to scholars, this text comprises the bulk of the journals of Chesnutt, a black writer from North Carolina, from 1874 to 1882. It records some early attempts at prose and poetry and the moment at which he resolves to preserve his "impressions of men and things . . . with a view to future use in literary work." His love for languages (he learned French, German and Latin) and faith in education as the key to success estrange him from blacks who do not share such views, but cannot secure him unqualified acceptance from whites. Chesnutt says he has no white friends ("any man who feels himself too good to sit at table with me" is no friend) and is stung by the prejudice that can frustrate his ambitions ("first class teachers would not teach a 'nigger' and I would have no other sort"). Not surprisingly, some entries reveal wrenching loneliness, yet others overflow with exuberance: "I am getting along finely with the girls . . . Joe loves me, Emma loves me . . . Jane loves me." In all, it gives us an intriguing glimpse of a talented, intelligent person who strives to embody that American ideal, the self-made man, only to be told that the model was never intended for him. Illustrations not seen by PW. A volume of Chesnutt's stories, *The Conjure Woman and Other Conjure Tales* (edited and with a foreword by Richard H. Brodhead; \$12.95 ISBN 0-8223-1387-1; cloth \$34.95 *-1378-2) will also be published by Duke in December; this edition reassembles all of Chesnutt's work in the conjure tale genre.

Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Chesnutt's journals (1871-82) give the reader a vivid view of what an educated black man endured in a racially discriminatory society. The journals reveal an iron will intent on self-improvement; Chesnutt was determined to teach himself several foreign languages, improve his shorthand, study liberal arts, and become college-educated without a college. At the age of 22, he became the principal of the State Colored Normal School of North Carolina, but the dream of his life was to become an author. *The Conjure Woman*, first published in 1899 to enormous acclaim, shows Chesnutt's understanding and appreciation of the black vernacular, which did not come easily from an educated viewpoint. However, the conjure tales are full of black popular culture: its grief, ghosts, music, and joys. Certainly, Chesnutt's journey to literary recognition--which came in his lifetime--began the day he started his journal of self, ever alert to all its possibilities. This is an important contribution to African American studies. Highly recommended.

- Robert L. Kelly, *Fort Wayne Community Schs., Ind. vb.2*

Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

"*The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt* gives us, for the first time, full access to an unprecedented personal narrative, the first intimate self-portrait we have of an African American author in the making. Brodhead's introduction to the journal helps the reader to see the genuine treasure that this text is."—William L.

Andrews, author of *To Tell a Free Story: The First Century of Afro-American Autobiography*

"I can think of no more astute commentator on American life in the rural South in the years after the Civil War than Charles W. Chesnutt. Chesnutt's journals recreate the debilitating racism he encountered as a young man and also reveal the strength, courage, and integrity through which he became one of America's most important writers."—Cathy N. Davidson

Users Review

From reader reviews:

William Threatt:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or read a book called The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have additional opinion?

Melinda Gregory:

This The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt book is not really ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book will be information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This kind of The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt without we know teach the one who reading it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt can bring any time you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even phone. This The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt having excellent arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

Rosalie Cox:

Why? Because this The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap that but latter it will surprise you with the secret this inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who have write the book in such incredible way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book have got such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking way. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I were you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

Elizabeth Maez:

Is it an individual who having spare time then spend it whole day by simply watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something new? This The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt can be the answer, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are consequently out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this completely new era is common not a geek activity. So what these ebooks have than the others?

Download and Read Online The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt By Charles W. Chesnutt #3C1QTV805R7

Read The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt By Charles W. Chesnutt for online ebook

The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt By Charles W. Chesnutt Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt By Charles W. Chesnutt books to read online.

Online The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt By Charles W. Chesnutt ebook PDF download

The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt By Charles W. Chesnutt Doc

The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt By Charles W. Chesnutt Mobipocket

The Journals of Charles W. Chesnutt By Charles W. Chesnutt EPub