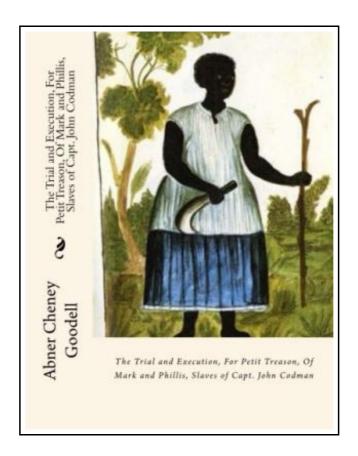
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THETRIAL AND EXECUTION, FOR PETIT TREASON, OF MARK AND PHILLIS, SLAVES OF CAPT. JOHN CODMAN



Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 279 x 216 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.When Paul Revere wrote in his account of his midnight ride, After I had passed Charlestown Neck, and got nearly opposite where Mark was hung in chains, he was referring to a well-known local landmark along his route through Charlestown (present-day Somerville). On this site twenty years earlier a slave named Mark Codman had been hanged and his body gibbeted (suspended in chains) for murder and petit treason for killing his master, John Codman. A former ship s captain, John Codman was a wealthy fifty-eight year old slave master and landowner in Charlestown when he was murdered by his three slaves, Phillis, Phoebe, and Mark Codman in 1755.* This celebrated case has become well-known as one of the few times in American history when a woman was sentenced to be burned to death; it is also of interest to legal scholars for the unusual charge of petit treason brought against the defendants; perhaps most important, however, the story of Mark, Phillis, and the other slaves involved in the plot serves as a window through which the modern observer may view a topic many would like to forget - the functioning of the chattel slave system in the northern colonies in all its inhumanity and brutality. Although the nature of slavery in the North differed somewhat from the slavery of the South due to the relative scarcity of large plantations, there were slaves living in Boston, and in other Massachusetts towns, until 1783, when slavery was legally abolished in Massachusetts. Most wealthy people, and even many middling families owned slaves. At least one slave, and possibly as many as five were owned by Robert Howard, the...

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