



Snow-Storm in August: Washington City, Francis Scott Key, and the Forgotten Race

By Morley, Jefferson.

Nan A. Talese. 1 Cloth(s), 2012. hard. Book Condition: New. In 1835 the nation's capital simmered with racial tension as newly freed African Americans from the South poured in, outnumbering slaves in the city for the first time. Among the enslaved was 19-year-old Arthur Bowen, who drunkenly stumbled home one night, picked up an axe, and threatened his owner, socialite Anna Thornton. Despite no blood being shed, Bowen was eventually arrested and tried for attempted murder by district attorney Francis Scott Key. But news of the incident had already spread, and within days Washington's first race riot exploded. Whites, fearing a slave rebellion, attacked the property of free blacks, including that of the gregarious former slave and successful restaurateur Beverly Snow, who became the target of the mob's rage. Jefferson Morley delivers an overlooked chapter of Jacksonian America with an absorbing account of a profound battle for justice." Salon Washington correspondent Jefferson Morley boldly and elegantly recreates a moment in time when free black businessmen mingled with their white counterparts while proponents of slavery and abolitionists struggled to co-exist in the nation's bustling capital. A crackling good tale of the deep impact of race and politics on a young nation struggling...



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