



True North

By Kathryn Lasky

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Award-winning author Kathryn Lasky's hopeful and heartwarming tale of friendship is being reissued in a new paperback format!

It's 1858, and fourteen-year-old Lucy Bradford lives in Boston and is nothing like her older sisters. Instead of making a fuss along with everyone else over big sister Iris's wedding, she'd rather be with her grandfather aboard his sailboat or helping him with his abolitionist efforts.

Hundreds of miles south, a girl named Afrika is fleeing from a cruel world, with the North Star as her guide. Afrika has known lifetimes of hardship and brutality, though she's only Lucy's age. And she's willing to face death for a chance at freedom.

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True North By Kathryn Lasky Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In the years before the Civil War, the paths of two adolescent girls—one a Boston socialite, the other a runaway slave from Virginia—converge, and together they embark on a treacherous journey to the Canadian border. "Lasky combines suspenseful fiction with history," said PW in a starred review. Ages 10-14. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal

Grade 6-9—An excellent work of historical fiction, carefully researched and poignantly told. In Virginia's Great Dismal Swamp in 1858, 14-year-old Afrika defies Harriet Tubman and chooses to stay with her dying newborn baby while the others continue to travel north. Afterwards, she resumes her flight from slavery to freedom alone. Meanwhile, Lucy Bradford of Boston finds the hoopla surrounding her older sister's wedding a total bore. She looks for some excitement and finds more than she bargained for when she discovers the young slave hiding in her grandfather's house. Suddenly, Lucy's predictable life is turned upside down as she helps the girl continue north. After Afrika reaches the safety of Canada and Lucy returns home, the two write to one another regularly. Finally, five decades later, Lucy welcomes Afrika to her Boston home. The two main characters are resilient, appealing, and complex. As the story switches back and forth from one to the other, the inevitability of their encounter and readers' curiosity about the circumstances under which this meeting will occur create a page-turning scenario. The grim realities of slavery are unforgettably revealed through Afrika, and the contrast between her life and Lucy's is starkly and effectively conveyed. The detailed settings add to the authenticity of the telling. Young people who have enjoyed Jennifer Armstrong's *Steal Away* (Orchard, 1992) will find Lasky's novel another thought-provoking look at this tumultuous period in U.S. history.

Carol Schene, Taunton Public Schools, MA

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 6⁺-8. Fourteen-year-old Lucy is the youngest daughter of a proper, upper-middle-class family living in Boston in 1858. Afrika, a young slave, doesn't know how old she is, but she knows it's time to make a run for freedom via the Underground Railroad. The girls' lives collide when Lucy discovers Afrika hiding in her grandfather's house, which is a safe place along the way to Canada. Lucy's abolitionist grandfather shares some of his secrets before his death, and now Lucy and Afrika must figure out the codes, the signals, and the roads that will take them north. The journey is dangerous, and almost no one can be trusted, but after months of difficult travel, the courageous teens arrive in Canada. Rich imagery and detail add to the suspenseful plot, and the characters, revealed in alternating perspectives, are vivid and believable. Flashbacks to Afrika's life in slavery are especially moving. This is stimulating, soul-stirring historical fiction, further enhanced by an informative author's note and a list of additional readings. *Karen Simonetti*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rachel Garber:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each book has different aim as well as goal; it means that

publication has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. These are reading whatever they take because their hobby is actually reading a book. Why not the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book after they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you will need this True North.

Helen Perez:

Book is usually written, printed, or outlined for everything. You can learn everything you want by a guide. Book has a different type. As you may know that book is important matter to bring us around the world. Next to that you can your reading talent was fluently. A book True North will make you to always be smarter. You can feel far more confidence if you can know about every thing. But some of you think which open or reading a book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they might be thought like that? Have you trying to find best book or appropriate book with you?

Marisa Carney:

The e-book untitled True North is the publication that recommended to you to read. You can see the quality of the guide content that will be shown to you actually. The language that publisher use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The copy writer was did a lot of exploration when write the book, hence the information that they share to you personally is absolutely accurate. You also will get the e-book of True North from the publisher to make you far more enjoy free time.

William Pak:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book can be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the reserve untitled True North can be good book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

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