



Belle: The Slave Daughter and the Lord Chief Justice

By Paula Byrne

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Belle: The Slave Daughter and the Lord Chief Justice By Paula Byrne

From acclaimed biographer Paula Byrne, the sensational true tale that inspired the major motion picture *Belle* (May 2014) starring Tom Wilkinson, Miranda Richardson, Emily Watson, Penelope Wilton, and Matthew Goode—a stunning story of the first mixed-race girl introduced to high society England and raised as a lady.

The illegitimate daughter of a captain in the Royal Navy and an enslaved African woman, Dido Belle was sent to live with her great-uncle, the Earl of Mansfield, one of the most powerful men of the time and a leading opponent of slavery. Growing up in his lavish estate, Dido was raised as a sister and companion to her white cousin, Elizabeth. When a joint portrait of the girls, commissioned by Mansfield, was unveiled, eighteenth-century England was shocked to see a black woman and white woman depicted as equals. Inspired by the painting, *Belle* vividly brings to life this extraordinary woman caught between two worlds, and illuminates the great civil rights question of her age: the fight to end slavery.

Belle includes 20 pages of black-and-white photos.

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Belle: The Slave Daughter and the Lord Chief Justice By Paula Byrne Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

Byrne's aim is to show how these objects, many of them reproduced in her book in lush color plates, reveal a much more cosmopolitan awareness of the world than is commonly credited to Austen." (Maureen Corrigan, NPR for THE REAL JANE AUSTEN)

Vividly persuasive.... THE REAL JANE AUSTEN is excellent... particularly on the dissonant topics of theater and slavery....Byrnes section on slavery is better still, establishing links between Austen's protagonists and contemporary figures, her pointed references and contemporary events, which highlight her supposedly oblivious fiction's sharp views on the slave trade." (New York Times Book Review for THE REAL JANE AUSTEN)

"Byrne takes Austen seriously as a writer...[she] brings to life a woman of "wonderful exuberance and self-confidence," of "firm opinions and strong passions." Little wonder that every other man she meets seems to fall in love with her." (Michael Dirda, Washington Post for THE REAL JANE AUSTEN)

"Byrne brings to this brief history an eye for telling details of daily life, slaveholders' unthinkable cruelty, and the fervent work of a few good men and women who changed their world." (Kirkus Reviews)

From the Back Cover

The sensational tale of the first mixed-race girl introduced to high-society England and raised as a lady...

The illegitimate daughter of a captain in the Royal Navy and an enslaved African woman, Dido Belle was raised by her great-uncle, the Earl of Mansfield, one of the most powerful men of the time and a leading opponent of slavery. When the portrait he commissioned of his two wards, Dido and her white cousin, Elizabeth, was unveiled, eighteenth-century England was shocked to see a black woman and white woman depicted as equals. Inspired by the painting, *Belle* vividly brings to life this extraordinary woman caught between two worlds, and illuminates the great civil rights question of her age: the fight to end slavery.

The feature film *Belle* is produced by Damian Jones (*The Iron Lady*, *The History Boys*, *Welcome to Sarajevo*), written by Misan Sagay, and directed by Amma Asante, and stars the extraordinary Gugu Mbatha-Raw as Dido Belle, Tom Wilkinson, Sam Reid, Miranda Richardson, Penelope Wilton, Tom Felton, Matthew Goode, and Emily Watson.

About the Author

Paula Byrne is the critically acclaimed author of five biographies, including *Belle: The Slave Daughter and the Lord Chief Justice*, *The Real Jane Austen*, and *Mad World: Evelyn Waugh and the Secrets of Brideshead*. She lives in Oxford, England, with her husband, the academic and biographer Jonathan Bate.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Walter Godinez:

As people who live in often the modest era should be revise about what going on or data even knowledge to make these keep up with the era that is certainly always change and make progress. Some of you maybe can update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know which you should start with. This Belle: The Slave Daughter and the Lord Chief Justice is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Dorothy Frazier:

The actual book Belle: The Slave Daughter and the Lord Chief Justice will bring that you the new experience of reading a book. The author style to explain the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book you just read, this book very suited to you. The book Belle: The Slave Daughter and the Lord Chief Justice is much recommended to you you just read. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can more readily to read the book.

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Juanita Stoneman:

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