

## **FAMILY OR FREEDOM WEST EMILY**

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"Emily West's Family or Freedom offers a straight-forward examination of the rare phenomenon of voluntary enslavement in the late antebellum South. [...] her work nevertheless sheds light on an obscure topic and makes a compelling case for its significance [...]"

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Author Emily West looks at the many factors influencing these dire decisions -- from desperate poverty to the threat of expulsion -- and demonstrates that the desire for family unity was the most important consideration for African Americans who submitted to voluntary enslavement.

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Family or Freedom investigates the incentives for free African Americans living in the antebellum South to sacrifice their liberty for a life in bondage. Author Emily West looks at the many factors influencing these dire decisions -- from desperate poverty to the threat of expulsion -- and demonstrates that the desire for family unity was the most important consideration for African Americans who submitted to voluntary enslavement.

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Emily West: Family or Freedom (PDF) Emily West Family or Freedom People of Color in the Antebellum South. PDF-ebook in english (with Adobe DRM) In the antebellum South, the presence of free people of color was problematic to the white population. Not only were they possible assistants to enslaved people and potential members of the labor ...

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Emily West is lecturer in history at the University of Reading and author of Chains of Love: Slave Couples in Antebellum South Carolina. More about Emily West Family or Freedom

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Emily West's Family or Freedom does what every good monograph should: it takes a small slice of a history and illuminates the whole. This persistent, thoughtful inquiry into why some free black people gave up their freedom tells us a great deal about slave kinship, the nature of the master-slave relationship, and slavery itself -- about the fluidity of the lines between slaves and free black people, between slavery and freedom.

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Family or Freedom: People of Color in the Antebellum South. By Emily West. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2012. Pp. 256. \$50.00 cloth; \$50.00 e-book) Emily West's recent addition to the scholarship concerning the free-black experience in the antebellum era is both beautifully written and extremely compelling. Revolving around the ...