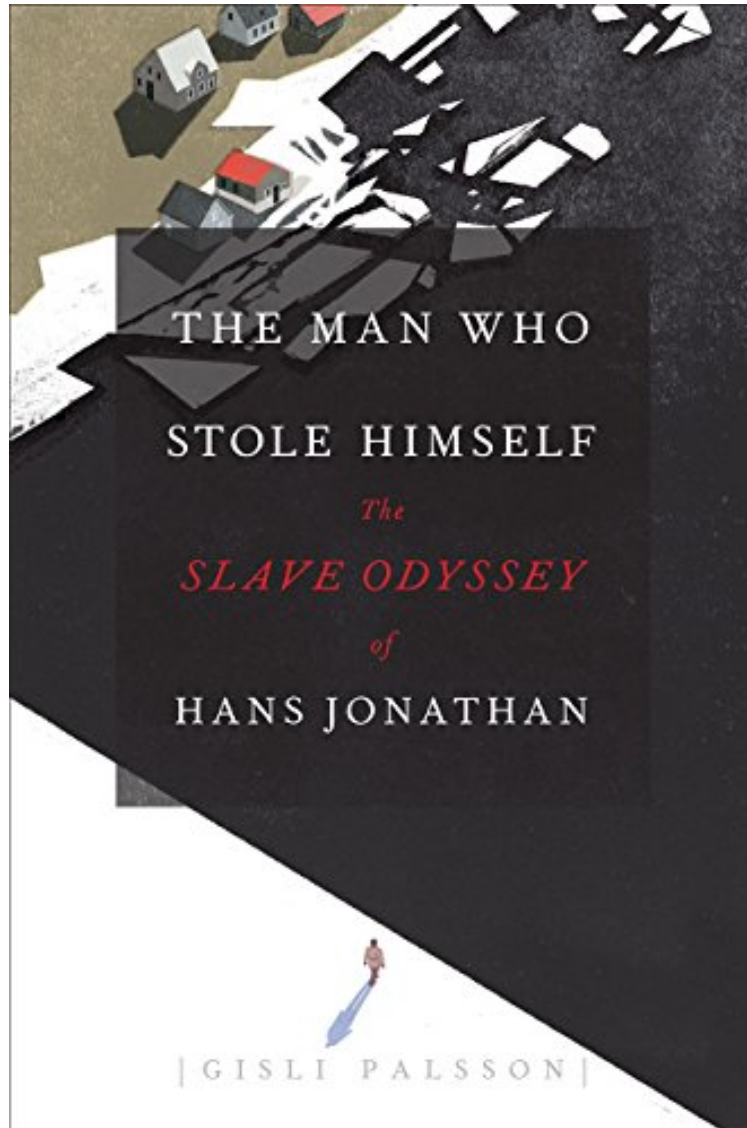


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The Man Who Stole Himself: The Slave Odyssey of Hans Jonathan

Gisli Palsson

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#323989 in Books Palsson Gisli 2016-09-16Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.20 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 022631328X264 pagesThe Man Who Stole Himself The Slave Odyssey of Hans Jonathan | File size: 28.Mb

Gisli Palsson : The Man Who Stole Himself: The Slave Odyssey of Hans Jonathan before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Man Who Stole Himself: The Slave Odyssey of Hans Jonathan:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Non-fiction but reads like fictionBy Kristjan IngvarssonThe book reads like a novel but it is entirely based on facts. Hans Jonathan, a 7 year old son of a slave, and therefore a slave

himself, moves from the Danish Virgin Island of St. Croix to Copenhagen in Denmark, where he becomes a war hero. For that he gets his freedom from the Danish king but his "owner" wins the case against the King and Hans Jonathan - before getting sent back to St. Croix - flees to Iceland. This is an important book. Anyone concerned with human rights should read it. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic, brilliant! By Randi Ottosen This book is a new "Roots" and it's so thrilling and brilliant. I really want to recommend this book. Gisli Palsson rolls out Hans Jonathan's story piece by piece. Fantastic that so much information can be found about a man, who lived from 1784-1824, from St. Croix to Copenhagen and from there to Iceland. The author also takes up out the discussion about racism, - also of today.

The island nation of Iceland is known for many things: majestic landscapes, volcanic eruptions, distinctive seafood but racial diversity is not one of them. So the little-known story of Hans Jonathan, a free black man who lived and raised a family in early nineteenth-century Iceland, is improbable and compelling, the stuff of novels. In *The Man Who Stole Himself*, Gisli Palsson lays out the story of Hans Jonathan (also known as Hans Jnatan) in stunning detail. Born into slavery in St. Croix in 1784, Hans was taken as a slave to Denmark, where he eventually enlisted in the navy and fought on behalf of the country in the 1801 Battle of Copenhagen. After the war, he declared himself a free man, believing that he was due freedom not only because of his patriotic service, but because while slavery remained legal in the colonies, it was outlawed in Denmark itself. He thus became the subject of one of the most notorious slavery cases in European history, which he lost. Then Hans ran away - never to be heard from in Denmark again, his fate unknown for more than two hundred years. It is now known that Hans fled to Iceland, where he became a merchant and peasant farmer, married, and raised two children. Today, he has become something of an Icelandic icon, claimed as a proud and daring ancestor both there and among his descendants in America. *The Man Who Stole Himself* brilliantly intertwines Hans Jonathan's adventurous travels with a portrait of the Danish slave trade, legal arguments over slavery, and the state of nineteenth-century race relations in the Northern Atlantic world. Throughout the book, Palsson traces themes of imperial dreams, colonialism, human rights, and globalization, which all come together in the life of a single, remarkable man. Hans literally led a life like no other. His is the story of a man who had the temerity to steal himself.

An intriguing work of microhistory. . . . Through this engaging tale of one man's attempts to find a home as a man of color in nineteenth-century Scandinavia, Palsson uses Jonathan's previously obscure but picaresque life as a lens through which to examine questions of imperialism, slavery, race, and cultural identity.