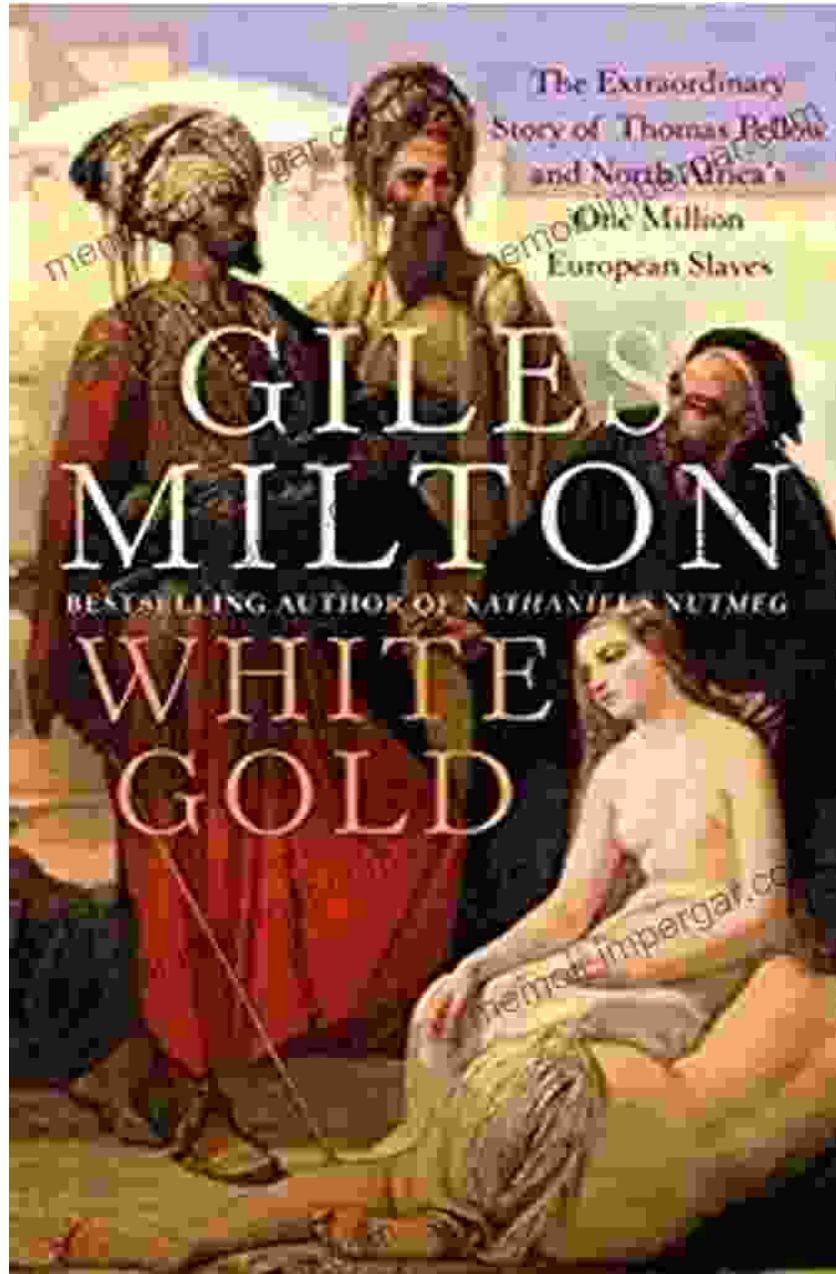


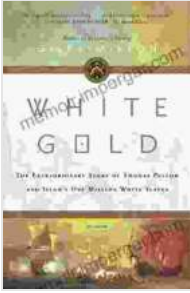
The Extraordinary Story Of Thomas Pellow And Islam: One Million White Slaves



**White Gold: The Extraordinary Story of Thomas Pellow
and Islam's One Million White Slaves** by Giles Milton

★★★★★ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 7383 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 309 pages



Prepare to delve into the captivating and forgotten history of Thomas Pellow, an English sailor who endured years of harrowing captivity in the heart of North Africa during the 18th century. Pellow's extraordinary memoir, published in 1740, offers a gripping firsthand account of the shockingly widespread practice of white slavery, a dark chapter in human history that has largely faded from collective memory.

The Perilous Journey

In 1716, fate dealt Thomas Pellow a cruel hand. As a young sailor aboard the merchant ship *Neptune*, his life took an unexpected turn when the vessel was seized by Barbary pirates off the coast of Cornwall. Along with hundreds of fellow Europeans, Pellow found himself plunged into a world of unimaginable hardship and brutality.

The pirates, known for their ruthless raids on European shipping, were part of a thriving network of slave traders operating along the North African coast. Captured Europeans were sold into slavery, subjected to forced labor, and often endured horrific treatment at the hands of their captors.

Life Under Captivity

Pellow's memoir provides a chilling glimpse into the daily horrors endured by these enslaved Europeans. He describes the grueling conditions aboard the slave ships, where prisoners were packed like cargo, suffering from disease, malnutrition, and the horrors of overcrowding.

Upon arriving in North Africa, Pellow and his fellow captives were sold at slave markets, where they faced an uncertain future. Some were forced to work as laborers in fields or quarries, while others were employed as servants in wealthy households. Pellow himself was freed by a high-ranking official in the court of the Moroccan Sultan.

Despite the hardships and constant threat of violence, Pellow managed to find solace and companionship among his fellow prisoners. He learned Arabic, adopted local customs, and even converted to Islam in an attempt to gain some semblance of acceptance from his captors.

The Struggle for Freedom

Throughout his years of captivity, Pellow never abandoned the hope of returning to his homeland. He tirelessly planned and schemed, plotting ways to escape or negotiate his release. In 1738, after more than two decades of enslavement, Pellow's opportunity finally came.

With the help of sympathetic locals and a stroke of luck, Pellow managed to flee Morocco and make his way back to England. His return was met with disbelief and astonishment, as many had long assumed him dead.

A Shocking Revelation

Upon his return to Europe, Pellow's memoir caused a sensation. His firsthand account of the horrors of white slavery sent shockwaves through

society and ignited a heated debate about the treatment of European captives in North Africa.

Pellow's book revealed the astonishing scale of the white slave trade, a phenomenon that had long been ignored or downplayed. It is estimated that over one million Europeans were enslaved in North Africa between the 16th and 19th centuries, a number that dwarfs the better-known history of African slavery in the Americas.

Rediscovering a Forgotten Past

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the forgotten history of white slavery in North Africa. Scholars have delved into archives, uncovering chilling accounts and shedding light on this dark chapter in human history.

Thomas Pellow's memoir remains a crucial document for understanding this forgotten past. His story serves as a reminder of the horrors endured by countless individuals, whose lives were forever altered by the scourge of slavery.

The story of Thomas Pellow and the one million white slaves is a haunting reminder of the complexities and horrors of human history. It challenges our assumptions and forces us to confront the uncomfortable truths that have been hidden or forgotten over time.

By reading and learning from Pellow's extraordinary account, we honor the memory of those who suffered and ensure that their stories are never erased from our collective consciousness.



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