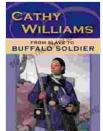
# **Cathy Williams: From Slave to Buffalo Soldier**





## Cathy Williams: From Slave to Buffalo Soldier

by Ashis Sengupta

| ****           | 4.5 out of 5 |
|----------------|--------------|
| Language       | : English    |
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Cathy Williams was an African American woman who disguised herself as a man to fight in the US Army during the Civil War. She is believed to be the only woman to have served as a Buffalo Soldier, an all-black regiment of the US Army that fought on the Western frontier after the Civil War.

Williams was born into slavery in Missouri in 1844. She escaped from slavery in 1861 and made her way to Kansas, where she joined the Union Army. She disguised herself as a man and took the name William Cathay.

Williams served in the Union Army for two years, fighting in several battles. She was wounded in action at the Battle of Shiloh in 1862. After the war, she was honorably discharged from the Army.

Williams returned to Kansas after the war and worked as a farmer and a teacher. She was active in the community and served as the local postmaster for several years.

Williams' story is a remarkable example of courage and determination. She overcame the challenges of slavery and discrimination to serve her country. Her story is an inspiration to us all.

#### Early Life and Escape from Slavery

Cathy Williams was born into slavery in Missouri in 1844. Her parents were both slaves, and she grew up on a plantation. Williams was a bright and curious child, and she loved to learn. However, she was not allowed to attend school because she was a slave.

In 1861, the Civil War broke out. Williams was 17 years old at the time, and she was determined to find a way to escape from slavery. She knew that the Union Army was fighting to end slavery, so she decided to join the Army.

Williams disguised herself as a man and took the name William Cathay. She cut her hair short and wore men's clothing. She then made her way to Kansas, where she joined the Union Army.

## Service in the Union Army

Williams served in the Union Army for two years, fighting in several battles. She was a brave and skilled soldier, and she quickly rose through the ranks. She was eventually promoted to the rank of sergeant.

Williams fought in the Battle of Shiloh in 1862. She was wounded in action during the battle, but she refused to leave her post. She continued to fight until the battle was over.

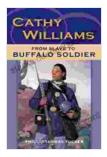
After the war, Williams was honorably discharged from the Army. She returned to Kansas and worked as a farmer and a teacher. She was active in the community and served as the local postmaster for several years.

#### Legacy

Cathy Williams' story is a remarkable example of courage and determination. She overcame the challenges of slavery and discrimination to serve her country. Her story is an inspiration to us all.

Williams' story has been told in books, articles, and documentaries. She has also been honored with a statue in her hometown of Fort Scott, Kansas.

Williams' legacy is one of courage, determination, and service. She is a reminder that anyone can overcome adversity and achieve their dreams.



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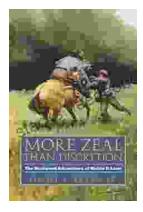
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| Screen Reader                  | : Supported                 |
| Enhanced typesetting : Enabled |                             |
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