



## The Journey of August King

*John Ehle*

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Discovering Analees Williamsburg, a fifteen-year-old runaway slave in 1810, August King faces a moral dilemma in which he must decide between turning the girl in for a reward or risking his life to help her. Reprint. Movie tie-in.

## **The Journey of August King Details**

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Author : John Ehle

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## **From Reader Review The Journey of August King for online ebook**

### **Lesley says**

A simple and harrowing story of a man trying to do the right thing in a world that is UN-apologetically wrong.

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### **T Zoner says**

One of the best books I've read about the North Carolina mountains.

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### **Gloria says**

I actually read this book as a precursor to having my older kids watch the film version for their "Movies as Literature" class.

It was stunning, violent, sad, and ultimately uplifting-- if only in that one hopes there will always be August Kings in the world to do what is right.

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### **Victoria Smith says**

I enjoyed the story, but found it hard to read. It took me a long time, but I was reading several books at the same time.

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### **Anita says**

Felt like this should have been on Oprah's list!

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### **Emiel says**

In de periode van het ontstaan van de eerste nederzettingen in de Appalachen reist August King van de markt terug naar huis. Hij heeft een aantal dieren en dingen aangeschaft die goed van pas gaan komen op zijn boerderij. Onderweg hoort hij over ontsnapte slaven. Wanneer hij een van de ontsnapte slaven, een meisje van ongeveer 15, tegenkomt, moet hij beslissen wat te doen.

Het duurt even voordat het verhaal op gang komt en het is in het begin wat moeilijk door te komen, maar als het boek je dan eenmaal in zijn grip heeft laat het niet meer los! De spanning groeit naarmate het verhaal vordert. Walgelijk om te lezen wat mensen andere mensen aan kunnen doen...

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### **Katherine says**

This is the third of John Ehle's books I have read, and each one has been a delight although quite different.. His prose is lyrical, and the story telling is spectacular. The complicated issues around slavery and human rights are magnified in the conflict facing August King. The southern Appalachian region was not the terrain for large slave holding plantations, and as a result, many who lived there had seldom or ever actually encountered a black person. August had never touched a black person and was actually a bit afraid of them, so his decision to help the runaway slave caused great internal conflict.

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### **Donna says**

I read everything I can find in historical fiction for the Appalachian area! All of John Ehle's books are wonderful!

I first say the movie THE JOURNEY OF AUGUST KING and then found the book. I was hooked! I read all the others one by one and enjoyed seeing the same names of families appearing from generation to generation.

Read them all!

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### **Joy H. says**

Added 1/21/14.

This book (first published 1971) was adapted to film in 1995. I watched it via Netflix streaming. Good story.

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0113490/?...>

<http://movies.netflix.com/WiMovie/The...>

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### **Barbara says**

I first read this book for a 1975 Appalachian literature class and remembered more about the moral choices August made than the violence. The historical details ring true from what I know about the drovers' road in the mountains of western Northern Carolina. Not the easiest book to read now but worth it. I'll read more of Ehle's work.

“In a sense they were permitted to steal on the road; those who had suffered losses could take the lame and sick stock that had been left behind by others, or take strays, or take most anything else which was not adequately protected, the degree of their crime to be judged in terms of their desperateness.” 47

“Lord knows, he wanted to be home again; even the thought of being home rejuvenated him. He wanted to be there and see the room he had made and be with his own things again, and be free of the road entirely. To be home where everything was known and understood and expected, yet was interesting, where he was not under the shadow to prove himself in some new way, as he had been this morning.” 63-4

“Better to wait here, he thought, now that there is music. The music is washing the field. It is cutting down the anger like a sickle in ripe grain. See how other musicians gather and young people find places on the torn grass.” 149

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### **CJ says**

I was proud too, August!

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### **Diane Barnes says**

The Land Breakers is one of the best books I've read on the settling of the NC mountains, and this novel is the second of John Ehle's mountain series. It takes place in 1810, 30 years after the first one, so we see the growth of the communities as new settlers come into the area. One of these men is August King. August makes his yearly trip down the mountain to sell stock and buy supplies and on the way home runs into a runaway slave girl that he decides to help. To say that his life is changed by that decision is an understatement, as he risks every thing he values, including his very soul.

While I could not rate this one with the same 5 stars I gave to the first one, it was an excellent continuation of the saga.

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### **Sarah says**

I read it while concurrently watching the movie which I found on Netflix. John Ehle did the screenplay as well so it was kind of like he got to tighten up his own story. Of course with a book you get all the internal thought processes. There were more plot elements in the book as well which made it a much more complex story especially since this is part two of Ehle's septology on the Appalachian region in North Carolina. (Ha, I've never had to use that word before). The movie was much tighter and the dialog more succinct. And once again, gee whiz am I glad I'm not trying to hack out a living in the wilderness. I had started reading the Land Breakers, also by Ehle, first, when it was republished by New York Review Books and apparently they can do no wrong. I discovered in poking around on the google machine that TLB was actually the first part of a 7 part series. So August King is the second and I am hooked. I asked the library to pull part 3 out of storage (Time of Drums) set in the civil war so I can get started on that one. WHAT THE HECK IS IT DOING IN STORAGE.

August King is a simple guy just doing his thing when he gradually realizes he has been chosen or has the opportunity to do something meaningful. This is it. Something that will make him feel good about himself and half of the reason is because its hard. Not that his day to day isn't hard- it is- but this is hard beyond that- he risks everything. We all have small opportunities everyday to make a difference we just don't choose to make sacrifices. His neighbors just assume he has gone bat shit crazy and that is how they explain it to themselves. Only August and the reader of course knows that he considers himself healed, whole and quite sane in an insane world by the end. A couple of the younger generation might have an inkling as well which I bet will lead us into Time of Drums. I'll let you know when I find out. John Ehle

John Ehle has quite the corpus apart from his fiction as well. Check out Press53 - they are reprinting the sixth

book, Lion on the Hearth this Spring (2015) My library doesn't have that one at all. He wrote The Free Men, which chronicles the civil rights protests in Chapel Hill, NC in 1963-1964 and the Trail of Tears, The Rise and Fall of the Cherokee Nation. He has won numerous awards so doesn't need my cheerleading. I highly recommend both the book and the movie.

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**Milt says**

august indeed

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**Jakki says**

Bought this book at a thrift store for .75! What a bargain. An AMAZING story about the man, August King, who gave up EVERYTHING that was important to him materially to help a young black girl escape slavery. I love what he said "Sometimes to do the right thing one has to give up other things that are encumbrances even if those things are a big part of what gives us security". Accused of "wrong thinking" in wanting to help the young girl, his friends told 1/2 truths.

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