**Harriet Beecher Stowe Takes a Stand**

In 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe was a young woman living 10

in a little town in Maine. She had been concerned for a long time 24

about slavery. She believed it was immoral, and she couldn’t 34

understand why everyone else did not agree with her. Over the 45

years, she had gone to many lectures about the need to give 57

slaves their freedom. She had read many newspaper articles 66 saying the same thing. But the lectures and articles always 76 annoyed her. They were dry and hard to read, using complex 87 legal arguments. 89

“Why couldn’t someone write a good, readable story?” she 98

asked herself. “Why couldn’t a writer show, in dramatic fashion, 108

how terrible slavery is? Why couldn’t a clever author show exactly 119

what was going on?” She finally decided to do it herself. She 131 vowed that her story would catch the attention of everybody in the

country. 144

Finally, she finished her book, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. It not only 155

told about the slaves’ struggles but it showed them in vivid detail. 167

The book caused quite a disturbance throughout the country. 176 People who had been against slavery without taking action 185 suddenly became active and voiced their objections to it. 194

The Civil War broke out a few years after the book was 206

published. During the war, President Abraham Lincoln met Harriet 215

Beecher Stowe. He looked at Stowe and smiled. “So you are the 227

woman who wrote the book that made this great war,” Lincoln 238

said with a wide grin. 243

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