

Harriet Tubman

c.1822-1913 • Underground Railroad conductor, abolitionist, Union scout, and suffragist.



Underground Railroad conductor, abolitionist, Union scout, suffragist. She turned hunted freedom into a road back for others.



Born Araminta Ross on Maryland's Eastern Shore, she learned work, weather, woods, stars, and the quiet signals of people trying to live free.



As a girl, she refused to help capture a fleeing man. An iron weight fractured her skull; she hovered between life and death.



Headaches, seizures, and “sleeping spells” followed her for life. Slavery had marked her body, but not owned her direction.



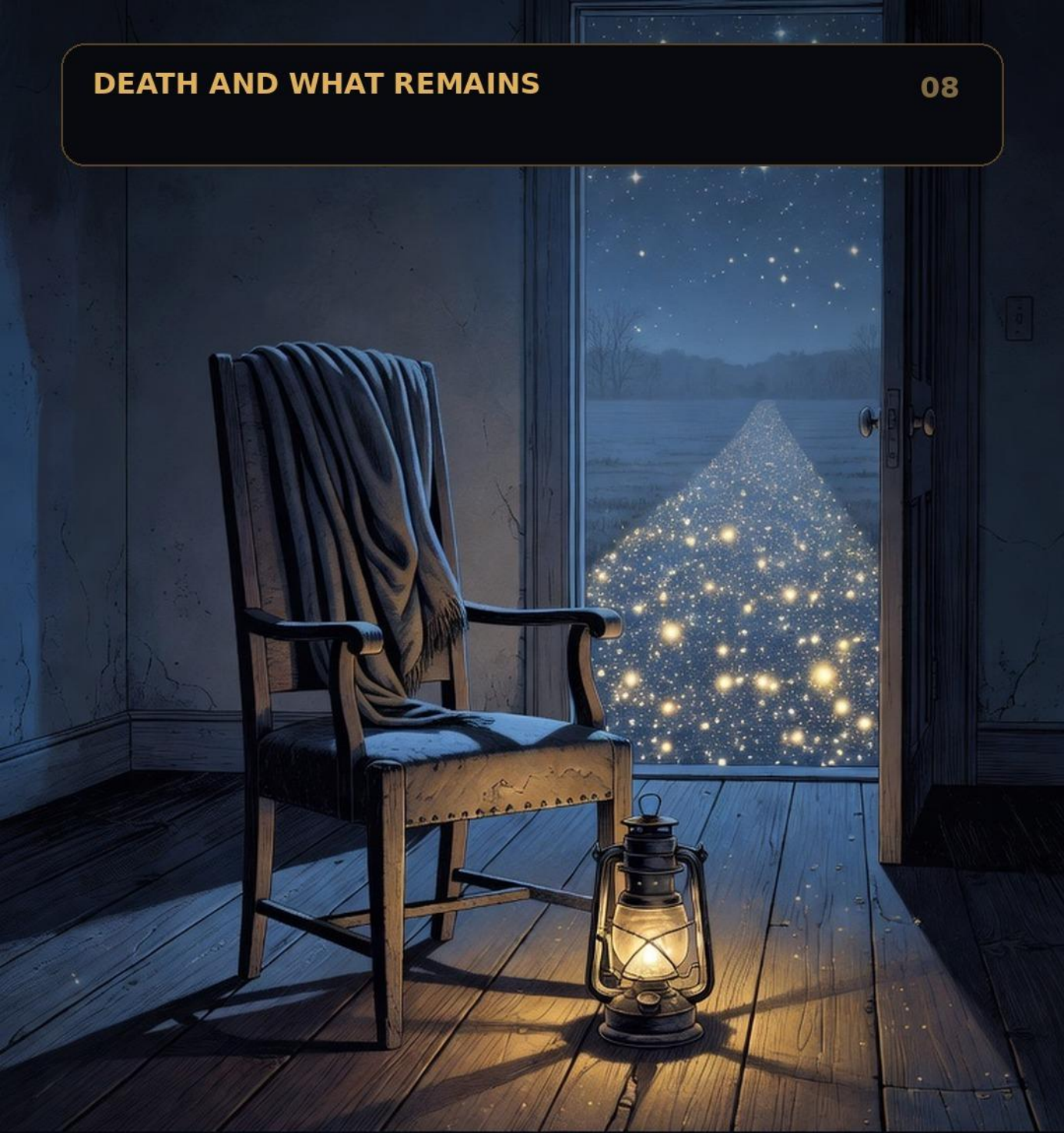
In 1849 she fled to Philadelphia. Freedom was not an ending: she went back again and again for family, friends, and strangers.



Over about 13 missions, Tubman guided roughly 70 people directly to freedom and instructed many more. Her map was courage under discipline.



During the Civil War she served the Union as nurse, scout, spy, and cook. Later in Auburn, she sheltered elders and kept working for suffrage.



Harriet Tubman died of pneumonia in Auburn on March 10, 1913. The blow nearly took a life. The life became passage.

Sources: National Park Service; Encyclopaedia Britannica; National Women's History Museum.