On March 2 and 3, 1859, the largest auction of slaves in American history took place in Savannah, Georgia. More than 400 slaves were sold. On the first day of the auction, the skies darkened and torrential rain began falling. The rain continued throughout the two days, stopping only when the auction had ended. The simultaneity of the rain storm with the auction led to these two days being called "the weeping time."

Julius Lester tells the story of several characters including Emma, a slave owned by Pierce Butler and caretaker of his two daughters, and Pierce, a man with a mounting gambling debt and household to protect. He is facing jail time if he does not pay off his debt due to his gambling problem. Emma wants to teach his daughters—Sarah, who opposes slavery with her mother and Frances who supports it with her father—to have kind hearts. Meanwhile, in a desperate bid to survive, Pierce decides to cash in his slaves and host the largest slave auction in American history. And on that day, the skies open up and weep endlessly on the proceedings below. Pierce ends up selling Emma to Miss Henfield in Kentucky because he got greedy with his money trying to pay off his huge amount of debt. This book talks about how Emma survived, her adventures that came with it, escaped to freedom to Philadelphia, and later moved to Novia Scotia in Canada.

This story is laid out almost like a play and tells you each character’s point of view, story and how everything is in their eyes. This is a great book to figure out what different people think and opinions of different points of the book.

I loved this book so much. It was amazing. I loved it because of the history and historical facts that are in it. I also liked how you could picture the story through every person’s eyes and what they were going through during the story. I also liked how much details are in the book. I did not like how slow paced the story was though and it was some what confusing at certain parts; most of the story was not confusing though. I also did not like the beginning very much because it was kind of boring and it didn’t always make me want to keep reading.

I would recommend this book to any one who likes historical fiction books and likes history. If you like fast moving, intense books then I would probably not recommend this book to you, but if you like slower paced books that have a ton of details on everything then this is a great book for you. You will absolutely love this book if you like enjoy historical fiction, history facts, books with a lot of details, point of views on everyone, and slower paced books.