

Excerpts from *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson

1. Run-away from the subscriber, living at No. 110, Water-Street, near the new slip. A girl named POLL, about 13 years of age, very black, marked with small-pox, and had on when she went away a red cloth petticoat, and a light blue short gown, home made. Whoever will take up and secure the said girl so that the owner may get her, shall be handsomely rewarded.
 - Newspaper Advertisement in the *Royal Gazette* (New York) (pg. 13)
2. ...we have in common with all other men a natural right to our freedoms without being depriv'd of them by our fellow men... we were unjustly dragged by the cruel hand of power from our dearest friends and sum of us stolen... and brought hither to be made slaves for life in a Christian land thus are we deprived of every thing that hath a tendency to make life even tolerable...
 - Petition for freedom from a group of slaves, to Massachusetts Governor Thomas Gage, His Majesty's Council, and The House of Representatives, 25 May 1774 (pg. 48)
3. To be sold at the office of William Tongue, Broker, at the house of the late Mr. Waldron near the exchange (lower end of Broad Street) the following goods and merchandise: One...wench, 22 years old, has had smallpox, is useful domestic, price 80£, ... one...boy, 16 years old, price 90£,... one...wench, 30 years old, with or without her son 5 years old price 60 or 80£.
 - Advertisement in the *New York Gazette* and *Weekly Mercury* newspaper (pg. 130)
4. The time is now near at hand which must probably determine whether Americans are to be, freemen, or slaves; ... The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this army... We have therefore to resolve to conquer or die.
 - Message issued to Continental troops from New York military headquarters July 1776 (pg. 149)
5. We have our coach standing before our door every night, and the horses are harnessed ready to make our escape, if we have time... Poor New York! I long to have the battle over, and I yet I dread the consequences.
 - Letter written by Mary, daughter of Patriot Brigadier General John Morin Scott, as he family prepared to flee New York (pg. 162)
6. Persons exposed to great danger and hazard... Remove with all expedition out of the said town [New York]... Whereas a bombardment and attack, may be hourly expected-
 - General George Washington, official handbill issued to New Yorkers, in August 1776 (pg. 169)

7. Oh, the houses in New York, if you could but see the insides of them! Occupied by the dirtiest people on a continent... If the owners ever get possession again, I am sure they will be years in cleaning them.
 - A letter from New York in the *Morning Chronicle* and *London Advertiser* newspaper (pg. 185)
8. The fire raged with inconceivable violence and in its destructive progress swept away all the buildings between Broad Street and the North Rive... Several women and children perished in the fire; their shrieks joined to the roaring of the flames, the crash of falling houses, and the widespread ruin which everywhere appeared, formed a scene of horror great beyond description, and which was still heightened by the darkness of the night.
 - *New York Mercury* newspaper (pg. 191)
9. Our distresses were very great indeed before; but this disaster has increased them tenfold. Many hundreds of families have lost their all; and are reduced from state of affluence to the lowest ebb of want and wretchedness-destitute of shelter, food or clothing.
 - *New York Mercury* newspaper (pg. 196)