



**The Algerine Captive: The Life and Adventures of  
Doctor Updike Underhill: Six Years a Prisoner  
Among the Algerines (Cosimo Classics Literature)**

*Royall Tyler*

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## **The Algerine Captive: The Life and Adventures of Doctor Updike Underhill: Six Years a Prisoner Among the Algerines (Cosimo Classics Literature) Royall Tyler**

He wrote the first American comedy to be performed onstage, and here, in this extraordinary but sadly little-remembered 1797 novel, he anticipates the great literature of the coming American century. Here, in two volumes in one book, Royall Tyler tells the astonishing-and thoroughly fictional-tale of Boston gentleman and scholar Updike Underhill, whose life encompasses such extremes as fumbblings with Greek poetry that almost lead him to a deadly duel and a stint as a surgeon on a slave ship. One of the first works of fiction to feel uniquely American, this combination of satire and sincerity begins, in Volume 1, as a comedy of manners and genteel adventure the likes of which Mark Twain would later make his own, and transforms, in Volume 2, into a sober tale of abolition and a striking consideration of what it meant, in those early days of the nation, to be an American. Fans of American literature should consider this a must-read. American playwright ROYALL TYLER (1757-1826), born William Clark Tyler, wrote many other plays, some of which have been lost, as well as novels, essays, and humorous verse.

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