In *The African-American Family in Slavery and Emancipation*, Wilma Dunaway calls into question the dominant paradigm of the U.S. slave family. She contends that U.S. slavery studies have been flawed by neglect of small plantations and export zones and by exaggeration of slave agency. Using data on population trends and slave narratives, she identifies several profit-maximizing strategies that owners implemented to disrupt and endanger African-American families, including forced labor migrations, structural interference in marriages and child care, sexual exploitation of women, shortfalls in provision of basic survival needs, and ecological risks. This book is unique in its examination of new threats to family persistence that emerged during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Wilma A. Dunaway is Associate Professor of Sociology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She is a specialist in international slavery studies, Native American studies, Appalachian studies, and world-system analysis. Her first book, *The First American Frontier: Transition to Capitalism in Southern Appalachia, 1700–1860*, won the 1996 Weatherford Award for the best book about Southern Appalachia. Her interdisciplinary work has appeared in several history and social science journals.
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The African-American Family in Slavery and Emancipation

Wilma A. Dunaway

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
In memory of
William Sherman Dunaway, Sr.
and
Della Elizabeth Newcomb Dunaway,
resilient parents
who maintained our family
despite the threats from sharecropping and low-waged
industrial labor.
The best of me I owe to them.
The companion website for this book is located at
http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/vtpubs/mountain_slavery/index.htm
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