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Edited by Joycelyn Moody
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A HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTOBIOGRAPHY

This *History* explores innovations in African American autobiography since its inception, examining the literary and cultural history of Black self-representation amid life writing studies. By analyzing the different forms of autobiography, including pictorial and personal essays, editorials, oral histories, testimonials, diaries, personal and open letters, and even poetry performance media of autobiographies, this book extends the definition of African American autobiography, revealing how people of African descent have created and defined the Black self in diverse print cultures and literary genres since their arrival in the Americas. It illustrates ways African Americans use life writing and autobiography to address personal and collective Black experiences of identity, family, memory, fulfillment, racism, and white supremacy. Individual chapters examine scrapbooks as a source of self-documentation, African American autobiography for children, readings of African American persona poems, mixed-race life writing after the Civil Rights Movement, and autobiographies by African American LGBTQ writers.

JOYCELYN K. MOODY is Sue E. Denman Distinguished Chair of American Literature and Professor of English at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Her scholarship includes *Sentimental Confessions: Spiritual Narratives of Nineteenth-Century African American Women* (2001), *Memoirs of Elleanor Eldridge* (2013), and numerous essays on African American literature and feminism. She is Series Editor of *African American Literature in Transition* (Cambridge University Press) and coeditor of the book series *Regenerations: African American Literature and Culture*.

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EDITED BY
JOYCELYN K. MOODY
The University of Texas at San Antonio



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1782–1783

Belinda Royall Sutton petitions the State of Massachusetts.

1785

John Marrant and William Aldridge, *A Narrative of the Lord's Most Wonderful Dealings with John Marrant, A Black (Now Going to Preach the Gospel in Nova-Scotia) Born in New-York, in North America*

1788

Thomas Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia*

1789

Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African, Written by Himself*

1790

John Marrant, *A Journal of the Rev. John Marrant*

1791

Olaudah Equiano, et al., *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African 2*, First American edition
 Revolt in San Domingo creates Haiti.

1792

Benjamin Banneker, *Letter from Benjamin Banneker, to the Secretary of State, with His Answer*

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- 1793**
 Second petition of Belinda Royall to the Massachusetts Court
- 1798**
A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture, a Native of Africa
- 1804**
 Haiti becomes the first independent black nation in the Americas.
- 1810**
 Daniel Coker, *A Dialogue Between a Virginian and an African Minister, Written by the Rev. Daniel Coker, a Descendant of Africa*
- 1812**
 John Marrant and William Aldridge, *A Narrative of the Life of John Marrant, of New York, in North America: Giving an Account of His Conversion When Only Fourteen Years of Age: His Leaving His Mother's House from Religious Motives*
- 1820**
 Daniel Coker, *Journal of Daniel Coker, a Descendant of Africa, from the Time of Leaving New York, in the Ship Elizabeth, Capt. Sebor, on a Voyage for Sherbro, in Africa*
- 1825**
 William Grimes, *Life of William Grimes, the Runaway Slave*
 Abigail Field Mott, *The Life and Adventures of Olaudah Equiano; or Gustavus Vassa, the African: From an Account Written by Himself*
- 1827**
Freedom's Journal
 Robert Roberts, *The House Servant's Directory, or, a Monitor for Private Families: Comprising Hints on the Arrangement and Performance of Servants' Work*
- 1829**
 David Walker, *Walker's Appeal, in Four Articles; Together with a Preamble, to the Coloured Citizens of the World*
- 1831**
 Mary Prince and Thomas Pringle, *History of Mary Prince, a West Indian Slave, Related by Herself*
 Thomas Gray, *Confessions of Nat Turner*

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1834

Richard Robert Madden, *A Narrative of Twelvemonths Residence in the West Indies*

al-Sadika, Abu-Bakr (aka Edward Donlan) Edward Donlan, "The History of Abon Becr Sadiki"

1835

Maria W. Stewart, *Productions of Mrs. Maria W. Stewart*

Susan Paul, *Memoir of James Jackson, The Attentive and Obedient Scholar Who Died in Boston, October 31, 1833, Aged Six Years and Eleven Months, By His Teacher, Miss Susan Paul*

1836

James Williams and Archibald Leighton, *A Narrative of the Events, Since the first of August, 1834. By James Williams, an Apprenticed Labourer in Jamaica*

Jarena Lee, *The Life and Religious Experience of Jarena Lee, A Coloured Lady, Giving an Account of Her Call to Preach the Gospel*

1838

Elleanor Eldridge and Frances Whipple, *Memoirs of Elleanor Eldridge*

1842

Lunsford Lane, *Narrative of Lunsford Lane*

The Narrative of Lunsford Lane, Formerly of Raleigh, N.C., Embracing an Account of His Early Life, the Redemption by Purchase of Himself and Family from Slavery

1845

Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself*

1846

Zilpha Elaw, *Memoirs of the Life, Religious Experience, Ministerial Travels and Labours of Mrs. Zilpha Elaw, an American Female of Colour; Together with Some Account of the Great Religious Revivals in America*

1847

William Wells Brown, *Narrative of William W. Brown, A Fugitive Slave, Written by Himself*

Frederick Douglass' *The North Star*

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1848

Henry Highland Garnet, *The Past and the Present Condition, and the Destiny, of The Colored Race*

1849

Josiah Henson and Samuel Atkins Eliot, *The Life of Josiah Henson, Formerly a Slave, Now an Inhabitant of Canada*

James Pennington, *The Fugitive Blacksmith; or, Events in the History of James W. C. Pennington*

Henry Box Brown, *Narrative of the Life of Henry Box Brown, Written by Himself*

Henry Bibb, *Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Henry Bibb, an American Slave, Written by Himself*

1850

Sojourner Truth and Olive Gilbert, *Narrative of Sojourner Truth*

Nancy Prince, *A Narrative of the Life and Travels of Mrs. Nancy Prince. Written by Herself*

1853

William Wells Brown, *Clotel: Or the President's Daughter: A Narrative of Slave Life in the United States*

Solomon Northrup, *Twelve Years a Slave: Narrative of Solomon Northrup, a Citizen of New York, Kidnapped in Washington City in 1841, and Rescued in 1853*

William G. Allen, *The American Prejudice Against Color. An Authentic Narrative, Showing How Easily the Nation Got into an Uproar*

1854

Frederick Douglass' Paper

1855

Frederick Douglass, *My Bondage and My Freedom*

Samuel Ringgold Ward, *Autobiography of a Fugitive Negro*

William C. Nell, *The Colored Patriots of the American Revolution*

1856

The Life and Adventures of James P. Beckwourth, Mountaineer, Scout, and Pioneer and Chief of the Crow Nation of Indians

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1857

Austin Steward, *Twenty-Two Years a Slave and Forty Years a Freeman*
 Mary Seacole, *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands*

1858

Josiah Henson, *Truth Stranger Than Fiction, Father Henson's Story of His Own Life*

1859

Anglo-African Magazine

Harriet E. Wilson, *Our Nig, or, Sketches from the Life of a Free Black: In a Two-Story White House, North, Showing That Slavery's Shadows Fall Even There*

1860

William Craft, *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom; or, the Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery*

1861

Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Written by Herself*
 Hiram Mattison, *Louisa Picquet, the Octoroon*

1863

President Abraham Lincoln issues the *Emancipation Proclamation*.
 William Wells Brown, *The Black Man, His Antecedents, His Genius, and His Achievements*

“Recipes for January Celebrations: New Years and Emancipation Proclamation Day”

1865

Thirteenth Amendment to the US Constitution

1866

Mattie J. Jackson, *The Story of Mattie J. Jackson*

1868

Fourteenth Amendment to the US Constitution
 Elizabeth Keckley, *Behind the Scenes. Or, Thirty Years a Slave, and Four Years in the White House*

1870

Fifteenth Amendment to the US Constitution

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1877

Josiah Henson, *Uncle Tom's Story of His Life: an Autobiography of the Rev. Josiah Henson (Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom"); from 1789–1876 / with a preface by Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe; and an introductory note by Geo. Sturge and S. Morley*

1880

William Wells Brown, *My Southern Home: or, The South and Its People*

1881

Frederick Douglass, *The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass, Written by Himself. His Early Life as a Slave, His Escape from Bondage, and His Complete History to the Present Time*

1883

William J. Brown, *The Life of William J. Brown of Providence, R.I.: With Personal Recollections of Incidents in Rhode Island*

1892

Anna Julia Cooper, *A Voice from the South: By a Black Woman of the South*

1893

Peter Randolph, *From Slave Cabin to the Pulpit: The Autobiography of Rev. Peter Randolph: The Southern Question Illustrated; and, Sketches of Slave Life*

Amanda Smith, *An Autobiography: The Story of the Lord's Dealings with Mrs. Amanda Smith, the Colored Evangelist*

1894

Gertrude Mossell, *The Work of the Afro-American Woman*

1898

Kate Drumgoold, *A Slave Girl's Story, Being an Autobiography of Kate Drumgoold*

1899

Charles W. Chesnutt, *Frederick Douglass*

1901

Booker T. Washington, *Up from Slavery*

1902

Susie King Taylor, *Reminiscences of My Life in Camp with the 33rd United States Colored Troops Late 1st S.C. Volunteers*

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1907

Nat Love, *The Life and Adventures of Nat Love, Better Known in the Cattle Country as "Deadwood Dick" by Himself, A True History of Slavery Days, Life on the Great Cattle Ranges and on the Plains of the "Wild and Woolly" West, Based on Facts, and Personal Experiences of the Author*

1913

Oscar Micheaux, *The Conquest: Story of a Negro Pioneer*

1922

Carter G. Woodson, *Negro Makers of History*
 Anita Reynolds, *American Cocktail* (posthumously published)

1923

Marcus Garvey, "The Negro's Greatest Enemy"
 William Pickens, *Bursting Bonds: The Autobiography of a "New Negro"*

1926

Hallie Q. Brown, *Homespun Heroines and Other Women of Distinction*
 Emma and L. P. Ray, *Twice Sold, Twice Ransomed; Autobiography of Mr. And Mrs. L. P. Ray*

1927

Jack Johnson, *Jack Johnson – In the Ring – and Out*

1933

James Weldon Johnson, *Along This Way*

1937

Claude McKay, *A Long Way from Home*

1940

Langston Hughes, *The Big Sea*
 Cedric Dover and Claude McKay, "East Indian-West Indian."
 W. E. B. Du Bois, *Dusk of Dawn: An Essay Toward an Autobiography of a Race Concept*

1942

Zora Neale Hurston, *Dust Tracks on a Road*

1945

Richard Wright, *Black Boy: A Record of Childhood and Youth*
 Dorothy B. Porter, "Early American Negro Writings: A Bibliographical Study"
 Ben Albert Richardson, *Great American Negroes*

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- 1946**
Era Bell Thompson, *American Daughter*
- 1947**
Joe Louis, *My Life Story*
- 1949**
Sydney Kaplan, “The Miscegenation Issue in the Election of 1864”
- 1950**
Lena Horne, *In Person, Lena Horne: as Told to Helen Arstein and Carlton Moss*
- 1954**
Louis Armstrong, *Satchmo: My Life in New Orleans*
- 1956**
Langston Hughes, *I Wonder as I Wander*
Marian Anderson, *My Lord, What a Morning: An Autobiography*
Eartha Kitt, *Thursday’s Child*
Billie Holiday with William Dufty, *Lady Sings the Blues*
Pauli Murray, *Proud Shoes: The Story of an American Family*
- 1957**
The Historical Cookbook of the American Negro
Jackie Robinson, *I Never Had It Made: An Autobiography of Jackie Robinson*
- 1958**
Althea Gibson and Ed Fitzgerald, *I Always Wanted to Be Somebody*
- 1959**
Katherine Dunham, *A Touch of Innocence: A Memoir of Childhood*
- 1960**
Archie Moore, *The Archie Moore Story*
- 1962**
Floyd Patterson and Milton Gross, *Victory Over Myself*
LeRoy (Satchel) Paige, as told to David Lipman, *Maybe I’ll Pitch Forever*
- 1964**
James Baldwin, *Notes of a Native Son*
- 1965**
Claude Brown, *Manchild in the Promised Land*
Sammy Davis, Jr., *Yes, I Can: The Story of Sammy Davis, Jr.*
The Autobiography of Malcolm X

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1967

Loving v. Virginia 388 U.S. 1 legalizes interracial marriage.

1968

Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Autobiography of W. E. B. Du Bois: A Soliloquy on Viewing My Life from the Last Decade of Its First Century*

1969

Mary Lou Durling Henderson (Bayless), “The Transcribed Manuscript from the Handwritten Memoirs of Rev. Mary Lou (Durling) Henderson (Bayless)”

Arna Bontemps, ed., *Great Slave Narratives*

Clifton Herman Johnson, ed., *God Struck Me Dead: Voices of Ex-Slaves*

Lorraine Hansberry, adapted by Robert Nemiroff, *To Be Young, Gifted, and Black: Lorraine Hansberry in Her Own Words*

1970

Alfreda M. Duster, ed., *Crusade for Justice: The Autobiography of Ida B. Wells*

Maya Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

Toni Cade, *The Black Woman*

Shirley Chisholm, *Unbought and Unbossed*

Mari Evans, *I Am a Black Woman*

Vertamae Grovener, *Vibration Cooking, or the Travel Notes of a Geechee Girl*

1971

Benjamin E. Mays, *Born to Rebel: An Autobiography*

Nikki Giovanni, *Gemini: An Extended Autobiographical Statement on My First Twenty-Five Years of Being a Black Poet*

1972

Gwendolyn Brooks, *Report from Part One*

George P. Rawick, ed., *The American Slave: A Composite Autobiography*

John W. Blassingame, *The Slave Community: Plantation Life in the Antebellum South*

1973

Huey Newton, *Revolutionary Suicide*

Derek Walcott, *Another Life*

1974

Angela Y. Davis, *Angela Davis, an Autobiography*

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1975

Muhammad Ali, *The Greatest: My Own Story*

1976

Lucille Clifton, *Generations*

Arnold Rampersad, *The Art and Imagination of W. E. B. Du Bois*

1978

Sonia Sanchez, *I've Been a Woman*

1979

Claude McKay, *My Green Hills of Jamaica* (posthumous)

Willard B. Gatewood, Jr., ed., *Slave and Freeman: The Autobiography of George L. Knox*

Frances Smith Foster, *Witnessing Slavery: The Development of Ante-Bellum Slave Narratives*.

1980

Audre Lorde, *The Cancer Journals*

James Olney, ed., *Autobiography: Essays Theoretical and Critical*

1981

Jean McMahan Humez, ed., and Rebecca Jackson, *Gifts of Power: The Writings of Rebecca Jackson, Black Visionary, Shaker Eldress*

1982

Audre Lorde, *Zami, A New Spelling of My Name*

1984

John Edgar Wideman, *Brothers and Keepers*

Grace Nichols, *I Is a Long Memored Woman*

Gloria T. Hull, ed., *Give Us Each Day: The Diary of Alice Dunbar-Nelson*

William L. Andrews, *To Tell a Free Story: The First Century of Afro-American Autobiography, 1760–1865*

Joanne M. Braxton, *Black Women Writing Autobiography: A Tradition Within a Tradition*

Charles T. Davis and Henry Louis Gates, Jr., eds., *The Slave's Narrative*

Russell C. Brignano, *Black Americans in Autobiography: An Annotated Bibliography of Autobiographies and Autobiographical Books Written Since the Civil War*. Rev. ed.

Dorothy Sterling, ed., *We Are Your Sisters: Black Women in the Nineteenth Century*

1986

- Arnold Rampersad, *The Life of Langston Hughes*
 Toni Cade Bambara, *The Bombing of Osage Avenue*
 Honor Ford Smith and Sistren, *Lionheart Gal: Life Stories of Jamaican Women*
 William L. Andrews, ed., *Sisters of the Spirit: Three Black Women's Autobiographies of the Nineteenth Century*
 Rita Dove, *Thomas and Beulah: Poems*

1987

- Pauli Murray, *Song in a Weary Throat: An American Pilgrimage*

1988

- Henry Louis Gates, et al., eds., *The Schomburg Library of Nineteenth-Century Black Women Writers*

1990

- Frances Smith Foster, ed., *A Brighter Coming Day: A Frances Ellen Watkins Harper Reader*

1991

- Lorene Cary, *Black Ice*
 Sistren Collective and Rhonda Cobham, *Belly Woman Bangarang*
 Henry Louis Gates, Jr., et al., eds., *The Schomburg Library of Nineteenth-Century Black Women Writers*
 Melton A. McLaurin, Celia, *A Slave: A True Story*
 F. James Davis, *Who Is Black? One's Nation's Definition*
 Patricia Bell-Scott et al., eds., *Double Stitch: Black Women Write About Mothers and Daughters*
 William L. Andrews, ed., and William Pickens, *Bursting Bonds: Enlarged Edition [of] the Heir of Slaves: The Autobiography of a "New Negro"*

1992

- Yelena Khanga and Susan Jacob, *Soul to Soul: The Story of a Black Russian American Family: 1865–1992*
 Elaine Brown, *A Taste of Power: A Black Woman's Story*

1993

- Sanyika Shakur, *Monster: The Autobiography of an L.A. Gang Member*

Assata Shakur, Dhoruba Bin Wahad, et al., *Still Black, Still Strong: Survivors of the U.S. War against Black Revolutionaries*

David Levering-Lewis, *W. E. B. Du Bois, 1868–1919: Biography of a Race*

Arthur Ashe and Arnold Rampersad, *Days of Grace: A Memoir*

Frances Smith Foster, *Written by Herself: Literary Production by African American Women, 1746–1892*

1994

Natasha Tarpley, ed., *Testimony: Young African-Americans on Self-Discovery and Black Identity*

Melba Patillo Beals, *Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High*

Shirlee Taylor Haizlip, *The Sweeter the Juice: A Family Memoir in Black and White*

Marsha Hunt, *Repossessing Ernestine: A Granddaughter Uncovers the Secret of Her American Family*

Henry Louis Gates, Jr., *Colored People*

Anna Deveare Smith, *Twilight Los Angeles, 1992*

Nathan McCall, *Makes Me Wanna Holler: A Young Black Man in America*

Patricia Bell-Scott, ed., *Life Notes: Personal Writings by Contemporary Black Women*

1995

Barack Obama, *Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance*

Colin L. Powell with Joseph E. Persico, *My American Journey*

Judy Scales-Trent, *Notes of a White Black Woman: Race, Color, Community*

Miriam DeCosta-Willis, ed., *The Memphis Diary of Ida B. Wells: An Intimate Portrait of the Activist as a Young Woman*

Dorothy Porter, ed., *Early Negro Writing*

1996

James McBride, *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*

Scott Minerbrook, *Divided to the Vein: A Journey into Race and Family*

Gregory Howard Williams, *Life on the Color Line: The True Story of a White Boy Who Discovered He Was Black*

Adrian Piper, *Out of Order, Out of Sight*

Nell Irvin Painter, *Sojourner Truth: A Life, a Symbol*

1997

Toi Derricotte, *The Black Notebooks: An Interior Journey*

Arnold Rampersad, *Jackie Robinson: A Biography*

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1998

- Clayborne Carson, *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.*
 Rosemary Bray, *Unafraid of the Dark: A Memoir*
 Patricia Bell-Scott, ed., *Flat-Footed Truths: Telling Black Women's Lives*

1999

- Chana Kai Lee, *For Freedom's Sake: The Life of Fannie Lou Hamer*
 Farah Jasmine Griffin, ed., *Beloved Sisters and Loving Friends: Letters from Rebecca Primus of Royal Oak, Maryland and Addie Brown of Hartford, Connecticut, 1854–1868*
 Kenneth Mostern, *Autobiography and Black Identity Politics: Racialization in Twentieth-Century America*
 John W. Blassingame, John R. McKivigan, and Peter P. Hinks, eds., *The Frederick Douglass Papers. Series Two, Autobiographical Writings*

2000

- June Jordan, *Soldier: A Poet's Childhood*
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 Margo V. Perkins, *Autobiography as Activism: Three Black Women of the Sixties*
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2001

- Angela Nissel, *The Broke Diaries: The Completely True and Hilarious Misadventures of a Good Girl Gone Broke*
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 Marilyn Nelson, *Carver: A Life in Poems*
 Richard Douglass-Chin, *Preacher Woman Sings the Blues: The Autobiographies of Nineteenth-Century African American Evangelists*

2002

- Nikki Grimes, *Talkin' About Bessie: The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman*
 Karla F. C. Holloway, *Passed On: African American Mourning Stories: A Memorial*
 Dionne Brand, *Map to the Door of No Return: Notes to Belonging*
 Bernestine Singley, ed., *When Race Becomes Real: Black and White Writers Confront Their Personal Histories*

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2003

Trudier Harris, *Summer Snow: Reflections from a Black Daughter of the South*
 Russell John Rickford, *Betty Shabazz: A Remarkable Story of Survival and Faith Before and After Malcolm X*

Tonya Bolden and Ansel Pitcairn, *Portraits of African-American Heroes*
 Barbara Ransby, *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision*

Jean McMahan Humez, *Harriet Tubman: The Life and the Life Stories*
 Johnnie M. Stover, *Rhetoric and Resistance in Black Women's Autobiography*

2004

Thylia Moss, *Slave Moth: A Narrative in Verse*
 Alexis De Veaux, *Warrior Poet: A Biography of Audre Lorde*
 Evelyn C. White, *Alice Walker: A Life*

John Ernest, *Liberation Historiography: African American Writers and the Challenge of History, 1794–1861*

2005

Tyehimba Jess, *leadbelly: poems*
 David A. Adler and Terry Widener, *Joe Louis: America's Fighter*
 Essie Mae Washington-Williams and William Stadium, *Dear Senator: A Memoir by the Daughter of Strom Thurmond*
 Sonsyrea Tate, *Little X: Growing Up in the Nation of Islam*

2006

June Cross, *Secret Daughter: A Mixed-Race Daughter and the Mother Who Gave Her Away*
 Angela Nissel, *Mixed: My Life in Black and White*
 Kym Ragusa, *The Skin Between Us: A Memoir of Race, Beauty and Belonging*
 Thulani Davis, *My Confederate Kinfolk: A Twenty-First Century Freedwoman Discovers Her Roots*
 DoVeanna S. Fulton Minor, *Speaking Power: Black Feminist Orality in Women's Narratives of Slavery*
 Karla F. C. Holloway, *BookMarks: Reading in Black and White*

2007

Bliss Broyard, *One Drop: My Father's Hidden Life – A Story of Race and Family Secrets*
 Saidiya Hartman, *Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route*
 Arnold Rampersad, *Ralph Ellison: A Biography*
 Miriam Fuchs and Craig Howes, eds., *Teaching Life Writing Texts*

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2008

Ta-Nehisi Coates, *The Beautiful Struggle: A Father, Two Sons, and an Unlikely Road to Manhood*

Kyle Baker, *Nat Turner*

Marilyn Nelson, Deborah Dancy, and Venture Smith, *The Freedom Business: Including a Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture, a Native of Africa*

Michelle Cliff, *If I Could Write This in Fire I Would Write This in Fire*

Harriet A. Jacobs and Jean Fagan Yellin, *The Harriet Jacobs Family Papers*.

Lois Brown, *Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins: Black Daughter of the Revolution*

Annette Gordon-Reed, *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*

Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina, *Mr. and Mrs. Prince: How an Extraordinary Eighteenth-Century Family Moved Out of Slavery and into Legend*

2009

Rita Dove, *Sonata Mulattica: A Life in Five Movements and a Short Play*

Robin D. G. Kelley, *Thelonius Monk: The Life and Times of an American Original*

David Levering Lewis, *W. E. B. Du Bois: An Autobiography*

Tara T. Green, ed., *A Fatherless Child: Autobiographical Perspectives on African American Men*

Paula J. Giddings, *Ida: A Sword Among Lions, Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching*

2010

Rebecca Skloot, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

Natasha Trethewey, *Beyond Katrina*

Pam Grier and Andrea Cagan, *Foxy: My Life in Three Acts*

Isabel Wilkerson, *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*

DoVeanna S. Fulton Minor and Reginald H. Pitts, eds., *Speaking Lives, Authoring Texts: Three African American Women's Oral Slave Narratives*

Susanna Ashton, *I Belong to South Carolina: South Carolina Slave Narratives*

2011

Kevin Young, *Ardency: A Chronicle of the Amistad Rebels*

Manning Marable, *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention*

Andrea Davis Pinkney and Sean Qualls, *Bird in a Box*

William L. Andrews, ed., *Slave Narratives after Slavery*

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Rhondda Robinson Thomas, ed., *A Nickel and a Prayer: The Autobiography of Jane Edna Hunter*

Roxane Gay, *Ayiti*

Michael A. Chaney, *Graphic Subjects: Critical Essays on Autobiography and Graphic Novels*

2012

Charlotte Pierce Baker, *This Fragile Life: A Mother's Story of a Bipolar Son*
 Cherehe Sherrard-Johnson, *Dorothy West's Paradise: A Biography of Class and Color*

Caroline A. Streeter, *Tragic No More: Mixed-Race Women and the Nexus of Sex and Celebrity*

Carla L. Peterson, *Black Gotham: A Family History of African Americans in Nineteenth-Century New York City*

Michael Long, ed., *I Must Resist: Bayard Rustin's Life in Letters*

Henry Louis Gates, *Finding Your Roots: The Public Broadcasting Service Series*

Byron Hurt, *Soul Food Junkies*

2013

Adrian Matejka, *The Big Smoke*

Maya Angelou, *Mom and Me and Mom*

Jesmyn Ward, *Men We Reaped: A Memoir*

Rhondda Robinson Thomas and Susanna Ashton, eds., *The South Carolina Roots of African American Thought: A Reader*

2014

Karsonya Wise Whitehead, ed., *Notes from a Colored Girl: The Civil War Pocket Diaries of Emilie Frances Davis*

Tracey Davis with Nina Bunche Pierce, *Sammy Davis, Jr.: A Personal Journey with My Father*

Jacqueline Woodson, *Brown Girl Dreaming*

Roxane Gay, *Bad Feminist: Essays*

Pearl Cleage, *Things I Should Have Told My Daughter: Lies, Lessons and Love Affairs*

Janet Mock, *Redefining Realness: My Path to Womanhood, Identity, Love and So Much More*

Linda Janet Holmes, *A Joyous Revolt: Toni Cade Bambara, Writer and Activist*

John Ernest, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of the African American Slave Narrative*

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Joel Christian Gill, *Strange Fruit, Volume I: Uncelebrated Narratives from Black History*

Nicole N. Aljoe, *Journeys of the Slave Narrative in the Early Americas*

2015

Treasure Shields Redmond, *chop: a collection of kwansabas for fannie lou hamer*

Elizabeth Alexander, *The Light of the World: A Memoir*

Tracy K. Smith, *Ordinary Light: A Memoir*

Ta-Neheisi Coates, *Between the World and Me*

Margo Jefferson, *Negroland: A Memoir*

Shonda Rhimes, *Year of Yes: How to Dance It Out, Stand in the Sun and Be Your Own Person*

Peggy Caravantes, *The Many Faces of Josephine Baker: Dancer, Singer, Activist, Spy*

James Conyers, Jr., ed., *Black Lives: Essays in African American Biography*

John Stauffer, Zoe Trodd, and Celeste-Marie Bernier, *Picturing Frederick Douglass: An Illustrated Biography of the Nineteenth-Century's Most Photographed American*

Barbara McCaskill, *Love, Liberation, and Escaping Slavery: William and Ellen Craft in Cultural Memory*

2016

Lezly McSpadden and Lyah Beth LeFlore, *Tell the Truth & Shame the Devil: The Life, Legacy, and Love of My Son Michael Brown*

Beyoncé Knowles, *Lemonade*

Christina E. Sharpe, *In the Wake: On Blackness and Being*

Angela Ann Ards, *Words of Witness: Black Women's Autobiography in the Post-Brown Era*

Crystal J. Lucky, ed., and Charlotte S. Riley, *A Mysterious Life and Calling: From Slavery to Ministry in South Carolina*

2017

Jesmyn Ward, *The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks About Race*

Eric Lamore, ed., *Reading African American Autobiography: Twenty-First-Century Context and Criticism*

Roxane Gay, *Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body*

Cedrick May, ed., *The Collected Writings of Jupiter Hammon*

2018

Zora Neale Hurston, *Barracoon: The Story of the Last "Black Cargo"*

Michelle Obama, *Becoming*

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Kiese Laymon, *Heavy: An American Memoir*
 Patrisse Khan-Cullors, Asha Bandele, and Angela Y. Davis, *When They
 Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir*
 David Blight, *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*

2019

Sarah M. Broom, *The Yellow House*
 Prince and Dan Piepenbring, *The Beautiful Ones*
 Kathleen Collins and Nina Lorez Collins, ed., *Notes from a Black Woman's
 Diary: Selected Works of Kathleen Collins*
 Saidiya V. Hartman, *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments: Intimate
 Histories of Social Upheaval*
 William L. Andrews, *Slavery and Class in the American South: A Generation
 of Slave Narrative Testimony, 1840–1865*

2020

Kerri K. Greenidge, *Black Radical: The Life and Times of William Monroe
 Trotter*
 Dionne Brand, *An Autobiography of the Autobiography of Reading*
 Barbara McCaskill and Sidonia Serafini, eds., *The Magnificent Reverend
 Peter Thomas Stanford: Transatlantic Activist and Race Man*
 Angela R. Hooks, ed., *Diary as Literature: Through the Lens of
 Multiculturalism in America*
 Les Payne and Tamara Payne, *The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X*
 Rhondda Robinson Thomas, *Call My Name, Clemson: Documenting the
 Black Experience in an American University Community*
 Barack Obama, *A Promised Land*
 Kamala Harris, *The Truths We Hold: An American Journey*

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