



THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

... *LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING!*

I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS

by Maya Angelou

In this first of five volumes of autobiography, poet Maya Angelou recounts a childhood filled with disappointment, frustration, tragedy, and, finally, a hard-won independence.

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

by James Baldwin

A young man's desperate need to be loved by his father constantly works against his growing maturity and desire for independence.

WARRIORS DON'T CRY : A SEARING MEMOIR OF THE BATTLE TO INTEGRATE LITTLE ROCK'S CENTRAL HIGH

by Melba Pattillo Beals

The author forcefully recalls how, at age 15, she and several other Black teenagers were chosen to integrate Little Rock's Central High after the passage of Brown vs. Board of Education.

MANCHILD IN THE PROMISED LAND

by Claude Brown

The autobiography of Claude Brown from his childhood amidst the temptations and frustrations of Harlem to the triumph over himself and his surroundings.

KINDRED

by Octavia E. Butler

Inexplicably pulled back in time to the antebellum South, a contemporary Black woman must confront the harsh realities of Black history in America.

BREATH, EYES, MEMORY

by Edwidge Danticat

At the age of twelve, Sophie Caco is sent from her impoverished village to New York, where she gains a legacy of shame that can only be healed when she returns to Haiti and the woman who first raised her.

INVISIBLE MAN

by Ralph Ellison

Traces the life of the narrator from college and into Harlem where he becomes “invisible” like other African-Americans.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MISS JANE PITTMAN

by Ernest J. Gaines

Miss Jane Pittman is 110 when she recalls her childhood and the arrival of both Union and Confederate troops on the plantation where she lives.

A GATHERING OF OLD MEN

by Ernest J. Gaines

The murder of a white Cajun farmer unleashes a fury of buried hatred and defiance, as Sheriff Mapes attempts to identify the killer and prevent revenge.

A LESSON BEFORE DYING

by Ernest J. Gaines

A young illiterate African-American man witnesses two others kill a white store owner, but he is the one convicted.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MALCOLM X

(as told to) Alex Hailey

Malcolm X’s searing memoir articulates the anger, the struggles and the beliefs of African-Americans in the 1960s. An established classic of modern American literature.

THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD

by Zora Neale Hurston

Beautiful Janie Crawford learns through her imperfect relationships with men that self-identify comes from within and from a knowledge of one’s cultural past.

MIDDLE PASSAGE

by Charles Johnson

Rutherford Calhoun, a newly freed slave, accidentally boards a slave ship bound for Africa with a tyrannical, philosophizing captain and his rowdy, mutinous crew.

THE KNOWN WORLD

by Edward P. Jones

When a plantation proprietor and former slave – now a slave-owner, himself – dies, his household disintegrates in the wake of a slave rebellion and corrupt patrollers who often sell free black people into slavery.

LUCY

by Jamaica Kincaid

Lucy, a nineteen-year-old girl from the West Indies, comes to the United States to work as an au pair, and observes the unhealthy realities of the seemingly happy family that employs her.

MIRACLE AT ST. ANNA

by James McBride

A story of courage and redemption inspired by the famed Buffalo soldiers of the 92nd Division, and a little known historic event in a small Tuscan village at the end of World War II.

MAKES ME WANNA HOLLER : A YOUNG BLACK MAN IN AMERICA

by Nathan McCall

McCall tells of his coming of age in the late 60s, one of a generation of young black men outraged by generations of racism, of his imprisonment by age 20, and his education and career in journalism in the years since.

COMING OF AGE IN MISSISSIPPI

by Anne Moody

The story of an African-American girl growing up in the desperate poverty of rural Mississippi.

BELOVED : A NOVEL

by Toni Morrison

After the Civil War, Sethe longingly recalls the two-year-old daughter whom she killed when threatened with recapture after escaping from slavery 18 years before.

JAZZ

by Toni Morrison

In Harlem, 1926, Joe Trace, a door-to-door salesman in his fifties, kills his teenage lover. A profound love story which depicts the sights and sounds of Black urban life during the Jazz Age.

FALLEN ANGELS

by Walter Dean Myers

Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967, and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.

AMISTAD

by David Pesci

In 1839, slaves who took over a slave ship but could not sail it back to Africa, go on trial in Connecticut with John Quincy Adams ultimately representing them before the Supreme Court.

BETSEY BROWN

by Ntozake Shange

In 1957, Betsey Brown, 13, desegregates a school with the support of her mother and grandmother.

THE FLIGHT OF JESSE LEROY BROWN

by Theodore Taylor

Stirring biography of Jesse Brown who left Mississippi to attend Ohio State and then Naval Air Training School, the first Black man to enter the program.

THE GOOD NEGRESS

by A. J. Verdelle

Rejoining her family in 1963 Detroit in order to help prepare for a new baby, Denise Palms witnesses her two older brothers' painful entrance into the adult world and questions her own heritage in light of a tutor's instruction.

THE COLOR PURPLE

by Alice Walker

Two African-American sisters, one a missionary in Africa and the other a child-wife living in the South, support each other through their correspondence, beginning in the 1920s.

THE LIVING IS EASY : A NOVEL

by Dorothy West

Cleo alienates her sisters, husband and daughter in her desperate struggle to become part of Boston's Black elite society

PHILADELPHIA FIRE

by John Edgar Wideman

African-American writer, Cudjoe, returns to his native West Philadelphia to write a book on the the 1985 police bombing of a rowhouse inhabited by members of a black organization.

NATIVE SON

by Richard Wright

Traces the fall of a young black man in 1930s Chicago as his life loses all hope of redemption after he kills a white woman.

