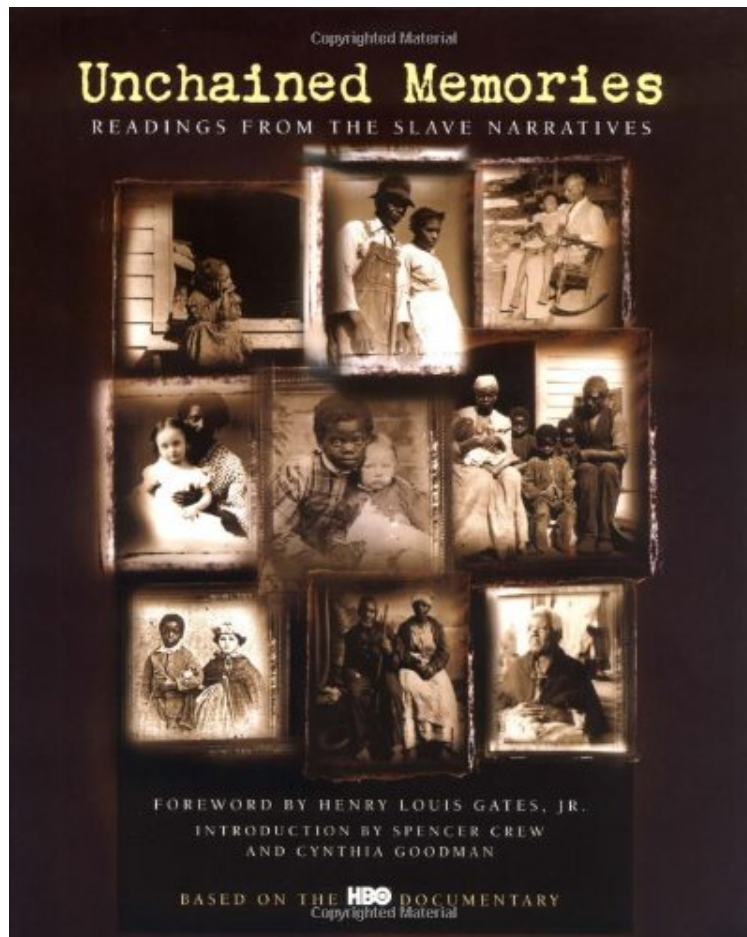


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Unchained Memories: Readings from the Slave Narratives

Spencer Crew, Cynthia Goodman, Henry Louis Gates Jr.
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Spencer Crew, Cynthia Goodman, Henry Louis Gates Jr. : Unchained Memories: Readings from the Slave Narratives before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Unchained Memories: Readings from the Slave Narratives:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent teaching tool!By Kindle CustomerI was spured to purchase this because I had seen a portion of the video in a class I am currently taking. I had actually gon in search of the DVD and literally stumble across this companion book. I highly recommend students and lovers of history in general both watch the original HBO special and read this book. We are so unaware of the sheer dichotomy of life experience within the slave existence, and it is something every American needs to understand.Unchained Memories: Readings from the Slave Narratives0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This Is Required ReadingBy Steve VranaI purchased this companion novel to the HBO documentary "Unchained Memories" (which I also own) after the latter made such an impact on me. I use them both in the high school classroom as reference materials for our study of slavery before we read Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." [My core novel is Julius Lester's

"To Be a Slave."] "Unchained Memories" is broken into eight thematic chapters: 1. Slave Auctions 2. Work 3. Family 4. Living Conditions 5. Abuse 6. Special Occasions 7. The Runaway 8. Emancipation In addition to numerous excerpts from the Federal Writers' Project interviews, there are numerous illustrations and photos (including many of the former slaves excerpted in this book). Seeing actual photos of these ex-slaves (taken at the time of the interviews in the late 1930s) adds a personal connection to their stories. While the HBO film utilized dramatic readings, the words of these former slaves are so powerful they grip the reader from beginning to end. This is a powerful book and at 160 pages, a quick read. One you will never forget. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Unchained Memories, Love was alive and well for a black man and woman! By Rebecca J. Wright I was doing a Black History program on 'Black Love', we needed to verify that there were personal accounts of actual weddings, marriages, and deep family ties for that period of time. I had ordered a copy of this book when it aired on TV, but lost it. It was a great asset for this program. We have all been misled to think that there were no family example for black people during this awful time, but we found that love ran very, very deep, with hope for finding families and unite with them. It was wonderful. I have talked with other black people that had no idea of this relationship during slavery. Many thought the examples of black love was always so negative, as if Dr. Cartright's research was actually true. Shame on them!. Every living creature created by God has a simblance of heartfelt love or commitment for at least a little while.

Unchained Memories is a riveting compilation of more than forty narratives drawn from interviews with former slaves conducted in the 1930s by the government's Works Progress Administration. The book is an adaptation of HBO's documentary special for 2003, also titled Unchained Memories . From slave auctions to emancipation, the narratives trace the extraordinary experiences of lives spent in slavery.

From Publishers Weekly Set to air February 10, the HBO documentary chronicled by this book (and sharing its title) is narrated by Whoopi Goldberg and features dramatic readings by Samuel L. Jackson, Ossie Davis, Oprah Winfrey and others, while a traveling exhibition has been organized by the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, and an expanded DVD is set for release the same day. Yet the testimony and 60 duotones here still speak for themselves. Bringing together more than 40 recollections from the more than 2,000 interviews conducted by the Depression-era WPA, this book acts as a small-scale, superlative introduction to the huge memory repository to be found in libraries and in the recent book-and-audio collection Remembering Slavery, which presents actual WPA slave narrative recordings along with much longer transcriptions. (The WPA's 17-volume set, archived as the Slave Narratives collection, remains available.) After short introductions from Harvard eminence Gates, and Crew and Goodman of the Freedom Center, the editors divide the book into eight chapters ("Slave Auctions," "Work," "Family," "Living Conditions," "Abuse," "Special Occasions," "The Runaway," "Emancipation"), each with an explanatory introduction, that juxtapose slavery-era photos with the recollections of former slaves, sometimes shown in photos from the time of the interview. With its featured selection by Black Expressions, the BOMC and the History Book Club, this title should do exactly as intended: raise individual awareness of the terrible legacy every citizen a former slave-holding country must carry. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist This book is based on an HBO documentary film (narrated by actor Whoopi Goldberg), that carries the same title and will be released in February 2003. Both the book and the film are, in turn, based on a collection of first-person slave accounts gathered in the late 1930s by interviewers working for the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration. With a foreword by esteemed black-studies scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr., this new selection culled from that vast compilation of testimonies brings to contemporary readers an "unequaled portrayal of the slave era" and puts a "human face" on the whole deplorable institution. The narratives themselves, set down in the dialect in which they were spoken, are brief but piquant and sometimes reveal faint glimmers of light in an otherwise dreary if not dangerous existence. The narratives are accompanied by photographs of interviewees taken at the time of the interviews. This is a meaningful book for general readers as well as students and scholars. Be prepared for demand once the HBO show airs. Brad Hooper Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved This title should do exactly as intended: raise individual awareness of the terrible legacy every citizen a former slave-holding country must carry' PUBLISHERS WEEKLY