



# The Black Book: 35th Anniversary Edition

From Random House

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## The Black Book: 35th Anniversary Edition From Random House

Seventeenth-century sketches of Africa as it appeared to marauding European traders. Nineteenth-century slave auction notices. Twentieth-century sheet music for work songs and freedom chants. Photographs of war heroes, regal in uniform. Antebellum reward posters for capturing runaway slaves. An 1856 article titled *“A Visit to the Slave Mother Who Killed Her Child.”*

In 1974, Middleton A. Harris and Toni Morrison led a team of gifted, passionate collectors in compiling these images and nearly 500 others into one sensational narrative of the black experience in America: **The Black Book**.

Now in a deluxe 35th anniversary hardcover edition, **The Black Book** remains a breathtaking testament to the legendary wisdom, strength, and perseverance of black men and women intent on freedom. Prominent collectors Morris Levitt, Roger Furman, and Ernest Smith, as well as Middleton Harris and Toni Morrison (then a Random House editor, now a two-time Pulitzer Prize—winning Nobel laureate) spent months studying, laughing at, and crying over these materials—from transcripts of fugitive slaves’ trials and proclamations by Frederick Douglass and other celebrated abolitionists to chilling images of cross burnings and lynchings, patents registered by black inventors throughout the early twentieth century to vibrant posters from “Black Hollywood” films from the 1930s and 1940s.

A labor of love and a vital link to the richness and diversity of African American history and culture, **The Black Book** honors the past, reminding us where our nation has been, and gives flight to our hopes for what is yet to come. Beautifully and faithfully presented, and featuring a new Foreword and original poem by Toni Morrison, **The Black Book** remains a timeless landmark work.

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## The Black Book: 35th Anniversary Edition From Random House Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

### Book Description

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### Look Inside *The Black Book: 35th Anniversary Edition*

Click on thumbnails for larger images

Cakewalking Couple

Courtesy of VertaMae  
Grosvenor



Sunlight Soap:  
Advertisement, circa  
1890

Courtesy of VertaMae  
Grosvenor



Sculptured Mask: Ife  
Bronze Head, 13th  
century. This head,  
uncovered in Ife,  
Nigeria, was made by the  
“lost wax” process long  
before Europeans  
reached the region (960 –  
1160 A.D.)

Courtesy of the Greater  
Acacia Collection



Sheet Music for *The  
Funny Little Darkies*  
(circa 1870)



Movie Poster for *While Thousands Cheer*  
(1940), starring Kenny Washington and  
Mantan Moreland

Courtesy of the Ernest Smith Collection



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From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. As fresh as the day it was born, 35 years ago, this category-smashing book is scrapbook, photo album, treasure chest and time capsule. An undated history of black life and culture in America emerges from the abundant photographs and contemporaneous reportage along with bountiful facsimiles of highly diverse articles (e.g., commercial advertisements, public notices, patent applications, sheet music and obituaries). Resonant scraps, photos and facts pepper the pages—The land on which Madison Square Garden in New York now rests once belonged to a black woman, Annie d'Angola; a photograph of Leo Pinckney, the first draftee of World War I; a list of black jockeys who've won the Kentucky Derby. Subjects occasionally cluster, among them black resistance to slavery, slave art (e.g., quilts, clothing, tools and furniture) and voodoo. Toni Morrison's quiet editorial hand is subtly acknowledged by her preface, which, in 1974, appeared without attribution as back jacket copy. Given the celebrated status of this book, which remains as valuable and fresh as when newly made, and the unlikelihood of another edition, an index would have been useful and welcome. Photos. (Nov.)

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#### Review

"This book should be in every home to be read and shown to every child, at least until that child reaches age 12." —Bill Cosby

"**The Black Book** is an incredible testament to the strength, character, and endurance of a people never meant to succeed. Especially in these historic times, I can think of no better way to celebrate African American achievement than through a retrospective look at our history—painful and pleasurable—our shared experiences and our successes. This is a book no American—black or white—can afford to ignore."—Dr. Cornel West, Princeton University

"I love **The Black Book**. I vividly remember when it was published: I was a graduate student in England, at Cambridge, desperately looking for sources in the emerging field of African American Studies. Both the book and Toni Morrison's brilliant *New York Times Magazine* essay—which I avidly devoured—opened up for me the very possibilities for, and the keen attraction of, the use of documents and artifacts to recreate the full and rich narrative of African American History. I read it like one reads a coffee table book, making my way through its lovely pages leisurely; but I also used it religiously as a scholarly reference source. One of the beautiful things about this beautiful book is that it fulfills both functions, and does so with great aplomb. When **The Black Book** was published, virtually no one knew that these sources even existed. No single book has done more to shape the field of African American History than has this brilliantly conceived book. It is the ultimate treasure chest of the Black Experience."—Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr., Harvard University

"A terrible error grew as humans spread out around the globe from our common ancestors in Southern Africa: race became a source of division and hierarchy instead of the minor adaptation to climate it truly was. **The Black Book** records some of the everyday suffering and wisdom that this false hierarchy has caused. There is not a member of the human family on earth who cannot learn from it."—Gloria Steinem

"**The Black Book** is an important document of American history that defines a people's strength, hope, and perseverance. By honoring the past, Toni Morrison's remarkable book sheds light on the present, and shows the unlimited potential for the future."—Gay Talese

"Terrific, terrific, terrific... tell the truth and shame the devil."—Melvin Van Peebles, Writer/Director

"Bountiful...Resonant...As fresh as the day it was born, 35 years ago, this category-smashing book is scrapbook, photo album, treasure chest and time capsule."—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **John Moore:**

This book untitled The Black Book: 35th Anniversary Edition to be one of several books this best seller in this year, this is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy that book in the book store or you can order it via online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, because you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason for you to past this guide from your list.

#### **Rose Bennett:**

Are you kind of stressful person, only have 10 or even 15 minute in your morning to upgrading your mind skill or thinking skill also analytical thinking? Then you have problem with the book as compared to can satisfy your small amount of time to read it because this all time you only find book that need more time to be learn. The Black Book: 35th Anniversary Edition can be your answer mainly because it can be read by you who have those short spare time problems.

#### **James Collins:**

You could spend your free time to see this book this reserve. This The Black Book: 35th Anniversary Edition is simple bringing you can read it in the area, in the beach, train as well as soon. If you did not include much space to bring typically the printed book, you can buy typically the e-book. It is make you easier to read it. You can save the particular book in your smart phone. Therefore there are a lot of benefits that you will get when one buys this book.

#### **Lisa Martin:**

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