



Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route

By Saidiya Hartman

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In *Lose Your Mother*, Saidiya Hartman traces the history of the Atlantic slave trade by recounting a journey she took along a slave route in Ghana. Following the trail of captives from the hinterland to the Atlantic coast, she reckons with the blank slate of her own genealogy and vividly dramatizes the effects of slavery on three centuries of African and African American history.

The slave, Hartman observes, is a stranger?torn from family, home, and country. To lose your mother is to be severed from your kin, to forget your past, and to inhabit the world as an outsider. There are no known survivors of Hartman's lineage, no relatives in Ghana whom she came hoping to find. She is a stranger in search of strangers, and this fact leads her into intimate engagements with the people she encounters along the way and with figures from the past whose lives were shattered and transformed by the slave trade. Written in prose that is fresh, insightful, and deeply affecting, *Lose Your Mother* is a "landmark text" (Robin D. G. Kelley, author of *Freedom Dreams*).

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Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route By Saidiya Hartman Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. In this rousing narrative, Berkeley professor Hartman traces first-hand the progress of her ancestors-forced migrants from the Gold Coast-in order to illuminate the history of the Atlantic slave trade. Chronicling her time in Ghana following the overland slave route from the hinterland to the Atlantic, Hartman admits early on to a naïve search for her identity: "Secretly I wanted to belong somewhere or, at least, I wanted a convenient explanation of why I felt like a stranger." Fortunately, Hartman eschews the simplification of such a quest, finding that Africa's American expatriates often find themselves more lost than when they started. Instead, Hartman channels her longing into facing tough questions, nagging self-doubt and the horrors of the Middle Passage in a fascinating, beautifully told history of those millions whose own histories were revoked in "the process by which lives were destroyed and slaves born." Shifting between past and present, Hartman also considers the "afterlife of slavery," revealing Africa-and, through her transitive experience, America-as yet unhealed by de-colonization and abolition, but showing signs of hope. Hartman's mix of history and memoir has the feel of a good novel, told with charm and passion, and should reach out to anyone contemplating the meaning of identity, belonging and homeland.

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From [Booklist](#)

Hartman journeys along the route taken by captured slaves from the interior of what is now Ghana to the Atlantic coast. With no specific trail to follow from her own lineage, Hartman views her search as a coming to terms with her status as stranger and wanderer in the African diaspora. She meets African American expatriates who have been living in Ghana for 20 years, not fully integrated in Africa but alienated from America. She also meets Ghanians who deride or exploit the desperate longing they see in the throngs of black Americans who visit the slave castles each year. She explores the perspective on slaves and slavery held by Africans versus the African American view and how those perspectives affect diasporan efforts to reconnect and to reckon with history. Reflecting on the complex history of slavery, Hartman integrates memories of her own family's journey to become African Americans from the Middle Passage through the Caribbean to the U.S. An eloquent and thoughtful look at the Atlantic slave trade and its resounding impact on the African American psyche. *Vanessa Bush*

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Review

"An original, thought-provoking meditation on the corrosive legacy of slavery, [*Lose Your Mother* is] splendidly written, driven by this writer's prodigious narrative gifts." ?Elizabeth Schmidt, *The New York Times Book Review*

"This is a memoir about loss, alienation, and estrangement, but also, ultimately, about the power of art to remember. *Lose Your Mother* is a magnificent achievement." ?Henry Louis Gates Jr., Alphonse Fletcher University Professor, Harvard University

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Anne Hahn:

Exactly why? Because this *Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route* is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap it but latter it will zap you with the secret that inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who have write the book in such incredible way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book include such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I were being you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

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Judy Sigmund:

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Mary Barnett:

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