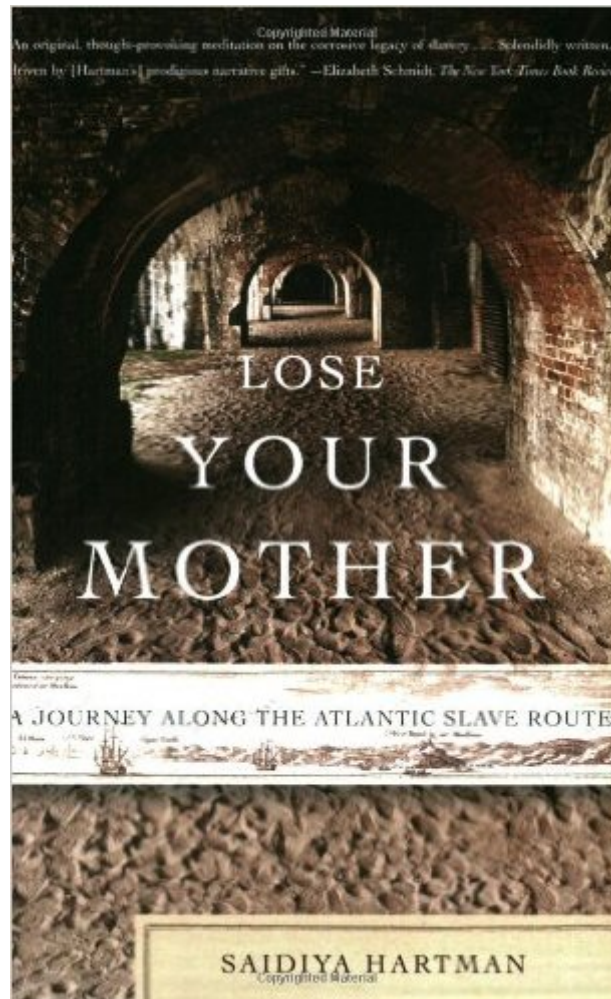


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# Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along The Atlantic Slave Route



## Synopsis

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*).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What "Roots" was to the Boomer Generation, "Lose Your Mother" could and should be to the Generation Next. Saidiya Hartman's writing style fits perfectly for a generation that longs for and loves narrative, story, and first-hand journal accounts. However, no one should thus assume that Hartman's writing lacks research credibility for she brilliantly weaves both rousing narrative and copious research to portray a powerful picture of one of history's ugliest stories: Middle Passage. She provides a fresh account of ancient wounds. Hartman's book can and should make a renewed contribution to the healing of past hurts which still linger deep. Her passionate style and scholarly

depth can help a nation move beyond suffering to healing hope. Reviewer: Bob Kellemen, Ph.D., is the author of *Beyond the Suffering: Embracing the Legacy of African American Soul Care and Spiritual Direction*, *Soul Physicians*, and *Spiritual Friends*.

A deeply moving combination of history, personal memoir and deep reflection, particularly on the heroic and aspirational legacy of slavery as seen by this wonderful writer.

There is something about the way she writes that just has a way of piercing your heart at its core. Her writing is honest and straightforward. I feel like she wrote this book for me that's how deeply I connected with it. As a daughter of the diaspora, a daughter of the enslaved, I appreciate this book so much. No, my wounds aren't healed but I feel like I can move on to healing and take the next generation on to healing and moving forward with the knowledge that I have gained from this book. The ancestors would be proud.

Thank you for your wonderful book. I enjoyed it immensely. Your look at the slave trade from the point of view of the commoner is much needed and provides lots more data on a subject that is often described and presented in ONLY the top down, objective, sterile, them vs. us manner. The information from the bottom, in my mind, is richer. It allows everyday people the luxury of participating in the discussion. They can't say, "I don't know," "I was not involved." Few are correct. When evil is around, all are impacted, then and now. The Transatlantic Slave Trade was that type of evil. Your representation of it is much needed. I am only now in 2015 reading your book. I am sure your thinking has deepened from your experiences of traveling the slave route AND meeting the descendants. As a black American, I too experience the lingering, un-articulated feelings of "alien," "stranger" in the midst of everybody. Like you, I watch many people, of all races and colors in the US and else where, try to separate themselves from the slave trade. It was not me, it was my ancestors, "they say." Your work allows ALL to grapple with the visual and non-visual clues in our midst that the hurt, pain and longing of "losing your mother" is very real and present in contemporary life. We are nowhere near post-racial.

Saidiya Hartman takes us on a journey that is intense, tough and thoroughly rewarding. Impressively, she learned as much about herself as she did about the past she sought, even more. The beauty of going with her on this journey is that the reader has the same magnificent opportunity, hypnotically led by the author, to ponder and to gain personal insight perhaps too long

submerged.

A disturbing, compelling look at one person's attempt to recover and reconnect to their past. It patterned attempts by others who had set out on similar journeys, but the conditioning over generations were too powerful and deep seated. This is a wonderful book. Its descriptions of enslavement are chilling and impactful written by someone with a insightful touch. I loved it.

If you take the time to read this book you will learn more about the story of the Afrikan than anything MLK or any civil rights figure has ever told or pretended to know.. This is the real story and unfortunately it did not begin in Ghana, which is why we as Afrikan desc must teach our children the other story as well The one about Abrahams roots and the history of Arabs enslavement of his bredren have fun!

Saidiya weaves a compelling story of the search for one's identity while trying to make sense of the horrors of the slave trade. Her vivid descriptions of the infamous slave castles, combined with a uncanny ability to put you in chains with the slaves waiting for the slavers, create vivid mental images that simultaneously make you want to put the book down and keep reading. Her material is well researched and moves you back and forth from the present to the past to the present, all within the context of a search we all need to take.

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