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New book out about black women authors

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Black American women are born into a mystic sisterhood living in a realm of shared language...knowers yet unknown..." according to the author of a new book on African American women writers published recently by the Temple University Press.

Joanne Braxton, author of *Black Women Writing Autobiography: A Tradition Within A Tradition*, examines the African American woman writer's search for dignity, self-definition and personal fulfillment.

Braxton looks at the writings of Harriet Tubman, Jarena Lee and Sojourner Truth for extraordinary stories of racial and sexual oppression in the 19th century.

She also examines the

autobiographies of 20th century writers Ida B. Wells, Zora Neale Hurston and Maya Angelou—a new generation of black women writers not living within the slave culture.

Braxton says her book "creates a form of symbolic memory that evokes the black woman's deepest consciousness...by placing the black woman writer at the center."

Maya Angelou, author of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, agrees. She says, "Braxton has been creative in finding resources and courageous in analyzing and interpreting her finds. The material is mountainous, yet the book sings. Braxton is a poet."

For more information, call the Temple Press at 787-8787.