

**Braxton, Joanne M. Black Women Writing  
Autobiography: A Tradition within a Tradition. 1990.  
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Braxton argues that studies of African American autobiography have not sufficiently addressed the varied roles of black women. Hers is a welcome examination of remarkable women writing of their lives from slavery to the present day, and Braxton groups them more by the character of their particular voices than by strict historical categories. Beyond the familiar—and still inspiring—names of such women as Harriet Tubman and Maya Angelou, we are introduced (among many) to Susie King Taylor and her passion for literacy; Charlotte Forten Grimké, who used her private diary to develop her public voice as a poet; Ida B. Wells, who identified "the sexual double standard at the root of America's race war"; and Zora Neale Hurston of the Harlem Renaissance who squared off against Richard Wright and others in expressing her own views while making some unfortunate concessions to the wishes of her publisher. This work treats both black and feminist issues and is a valuable addition to any collection. Acknowledgments, notes, references; index. —*Susan Nelson*