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This collection of essays focuses on the themes Gates has spent so much of his career exploring, the African diasporic culture found throughout the world and the roots traced back to Africa. As scholar, writer, and filmmaker, Gates has been a diligent researcher and keen observer of all things culturally rooted in Africa, but he has also been inclusive of the other ethnicities and cultures that are part of the making of African Americans. Interspersed throughout is Gates' own story of falling in love with history and genealogy as he searched for family roots as a child, hoping for a coat of arms and finding instead slavery and elusive traces of slave-master kinship. The collection begins with essays on the complexities of roots-finding for African Americans. Also included are essays on lost African American literary works and efforts to broaden the American literary canon to include the voices of African Americans. A final section includes interviews with James Baldwin and Isabel Wilkerson, among others. Fans of Gates will revel in this collection of great storytelling craft and appreciation of roots and connections.--Vanessa Bush

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