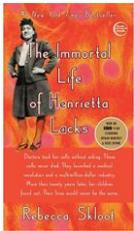


# Celebrate Black History Month!

## Adult Books

### [The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks](#) by Rebecca Skloot



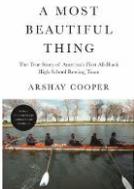
Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb's effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions.

Yet Henrietta Lacks remains virtually unknown, buried in an unmarked grave.

Henrietta's family did not learn of her "immortality" until more than twenty years after her death, when scientists investigating HeLa began using her husband and children in research without informed consent. As Rebecca Skloot so brilliantly shows, the story of the Lacks family—past and present—is inextricably connected to the dark history of experimentation on African Americans, the birth of bioethics, and the legal battles over whether we control the stuff we are made of.

### [A Most Beautiful Thing: The True Story of America's First All-Black High School Rowing Team](#)

by Arshay Cooper

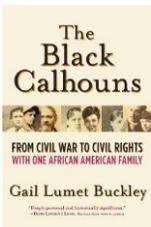


The moving true story of a group of young men growing up on Chicago's West side who form the first all-Black high school rowing team in the nation, and in doing so not only transform a sport, but their lives.

[eAudio available on Hoopla](#)

### [The Black Calhouns: From Civil War to Civil Rights with One American Family](#)

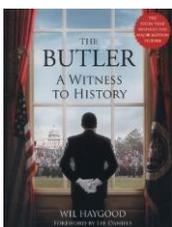
By Gail Lumet Buckley



Beginning with her great-great grandfather Moses Calhoun, a house slave who used the rare advantage of his education to become a successful businessman in post-war Atlanta, Buckley follows her family's two branches: one that stayed in the South, and the other that settled in Brooklyn. Through the lens of her relatives' momentous lives, Buckley examines major events throughout American history. From Atlanta during Reconstruction and the rise of Jim Crow, to New York City during the Harlem Renaissance, and then from World War II to the Civil Rights Movement, this ambitious, brilliant family witnessed and participated in the most crucial events of the 19th and 20th centuries. Combining personal and national history, *The Black Calhouns* is a unique and vibrant portrait of six generations during dynamic times of struggle and triumph.

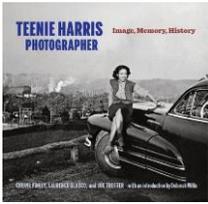
[eBook available on Hoopla](#)

### [The Butler: A Witness to History](#) by Wil Haygood



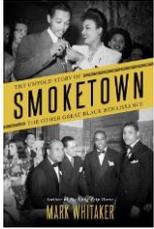
While serving tea and supervising buffets, Eugene Allen was a witness to history as decisions about America's most momentous events were being made. Here he is at the White House while Kennedy contemplates a moon landing; here he is again when Kennedy's widow returns from that fateful day in Dallas. Here he is when Johnson and his cabinet debate Vietnam and here he is again when Ronald Reagan finally got tough on apartheid. Perhaps hitting closest to home was the Civil Rights legislation that was developed, often with passions flaring, right in front of his eyes even as his own community of neighbors, friends and family were contending with Jim Crow America.

[eBook and eAudio available on Hoopla](#)



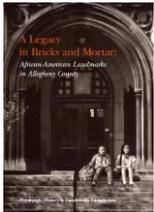
### **[Teenie Harris, Photographer: Image, Memory, History](#) By Cheryl Finley**

Harris's career began as America emerged from the Great Depression and ended after the civil rights movement. As a photographer for the Pittsburgh Courier, one of the nation's most influential black newspapers, Teenie hit the streets to record historic events and the people who lived them. The archive of Harris's photography, part of the permanent collection of Carnegie Museum of Art, represents one of the most important documentations of twentieth-century African Americans and their communities.

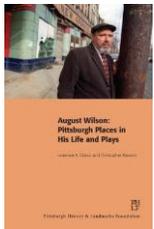


### **[Smoketown: The Untold Story of the Other Great Black Renaissance](#) by Mark Whitaker**

Mark Whitaker's Smoketown is a captivating portrait of this unsung community and a vital addition to the story of black America. It depicts how ambitious Southern migrants were drawn to a steel-making city on a strategic river junction; how they were shaped by its schools and a spirit of commerce with roots in the Gilded Age; and how their world was eventually destroyed by industrial decline and urban renewal. Whitaker takes readers on a rousing, revelatory journey--and offers a timely reminder that Black History is not all bleak.



### **[A Legacy in Bricks and Mortar: African American Landmarks in Allegheny County](#) by The Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation**



### **[August Wilson: Pittsburgh Places in His Life and Plays](#)**

**By Laurence Admiral Glasco**

*August Wilson: Pittsburgh Places in His Life and Plays* guides visitors to key sites in the playwright's life and work in the Hill District and beyond. This guidebook enriches the understanding of those who have seen or read his plays, inspires others to do so, and educates all to the importance of respecting, caring for, and preserving the Pittsburgh places that shaped, challenged, and nurtured August Wilson's rich, creative legacy.