Contents

"Four Women" by Nina Simone	9
INTRODUCTION	11
I. THE BURDEN OF OPPRESSION	13
1. "Jenny Proctor" from Lay My Burden Down: A Folk History of Slavery edited by B. A.	
Botkin	15
2. "The Slave Auction" by Frances E. W. Harper 3. From Mulatto: A Tragedy of the Deep South	21
by Langston Hughes	23
4. "The Ethics of Living Jim Crow" from Uncle	·
Tom's Children by Richard Wright	29
5. "The Negro Woman" from Sex and Racism in	·
America by Calvin C. Hernton	31
6. "Blood-burning Moon" from Cane by Jean Toomer	38
7. From In White America by Martin B. Duberman	48
II. BLACK ON WHITE: THE BLACK WOMAN	
IN THE WHITE WORLD	53
1. "The Ethics of Living Jim Crow" from Uncle	
Tom's Children by Richard Wright	55
2. "Health Card" by Frank Yerby	57
3. From The Autobiography of Malcolm X with	
the assistance of Alex Haley	69
4. "When in Rome" by Mari Evans	81
5. From Manchild in the Promised Land by	
Claude Brown	83

6. From Children of Crisis by Robert Coles, M	.D. 88
7. From Black Rage by William H. Grier, M.D.	,
and Price M. Cobbs, M.D.	90
8. "I Just Want to Be Myself" by Lena Horne	103
9. "The Scarlet Woman" by Fenton Johnson	113
10. From Lady Sings the Blues by Billie Holiday	115
11. From Another Country by James Baldwin	127
III. BLACK ON BLACK: THE BLACK WOMAN	
IN THE BLACK WORLD	147
1. From The Mark of Oppression by Abram	
Kardiner, M.D., and Lionel Ovesey, M.D.	149
2. "The Ethics of Living Jim Crow" from Uncle	;
Tom's Children by Richard Wright	156
3. From A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hans	-
berry	159
4. From The Flagellants by Carlene Hatcher	
Polite	163
5. From Manchild in the Promised Land by	
Claude Brown	167
6. From I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by	
Maya Angelou	169
7. "Queen of the Blues" from A Street in Bronz	e-
ville by Gwendolyn Brooks	179
8. From Black Bourgeoisie by E. Franklin Frazio	er 183
9. From Silent Voices: The Southern Negro	
Woman Today by Josephine Carson	190
10. "Mother to Son" from Selected Poems by	
Langston Hughes	200
11. "Granny: Guardian of the Generations" from	
The Negro Family in the United States by	
E. Franklin Frazier	202
12. "By glistening, dancing seas" by Lethonia	
Gee	016

CONTENTS	7
III A TIEDITEACE DEDICOCUEDED CRITE MENT	

IV. A HERITAGE REDISCOVERED: THE NEW	
BLACK WOMAN	217
1. "The Damnation of Women" from Darkwater	
by W. E. B. Du Bois	219
2. "Eliza Harris" by Frances E. W. Harper	236
3. "For de Lawd" from Good Times by Lucille	_
Clifton	239
4. From Silent Voices: The Southern Negro	
Woman Today by Josephine Carson	241
5. "(Title)" by Bob Bennett	247
6. "Reena" by Paule Marshall	249
7. "blackwoman:" and "BLACKWOMAN" from	
Don't Cry, Scream by Don L. Lee	272
8. "To All Black Women from All Black Men"	·
from Soul on Ice by Eldridge Cleaver	274
• • •	• •

BIOGRAPHIES OF CONTRIBUTORS

281