



**Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an
American Slave, Written by Himself: A New
Critical Edition by Angela Y. Davis (City Lights
Open Media)**

Frederick Douglass, Angela Y. Davis

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A masterpiece of African American literature, Frederick Douglass's *Narrative* is the powerful story of an enslaved youth coming into social and moral consciousness by disobeying his white slavemasters and secretly teaching himself to read. Achieving literacy emboldens Douglass to resist, escape, and ultimately achieve his freedom. After escaping slavery, Douglass became a leader in the anti-slavery and women's rights movements, a bestselling author, and U.S. diplomat.

In this new critical edition, legendary activist and feminist scholar Angela Davis sheds new light on the legacy of Frederick Douglass. In two philosophical lectures originally delivered at UCLA in autumn 1969, Davis focuses on Douglass's intellectual and spiritual awakening, and the importance of self-knowledge in achieving freedom from all forms of oppression. With detailed attention to Douglass's text, she interrogates the legacy of slavery and shares timeless lessons about oppression, resistance, and freedom. And in an extended introductory essay written for this edition, Davis comments on previous editions of the *Narrative* and re-examines Douglass through a contemporary feminist perspective. An important new edition of an American classic.

Angela Y. Davis presents a long overdue examination of Douglass' work not just from the perspective of a woman but one of the most provocative and profound minds of the last half century. It is my sincere hope that this City Lights edition of *The Narrative* will inspire researchers and individuals to take a closer look at the tremendous degree of influence Anna Murray Douglass had in the life and the career of her husband and my great-great-great grandfather."—**Kenneth B. Morris, Jr., Great-great-great grandson, Frederick Douglass & Great-great grandson, Booker T. Washington**

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