Passed on: African American Mourning Stories - A Memorial (Hardback)

By Karla F. C. Holloway

Duke University Press, United States, 2002. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 241 x 173 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Passed On is a portrait of death and dying in twentieth-century African America. Through poignant reflection and thorough investigation of the myths, rituals, economics, and politics of African American mourning and burial practices, Karla F. C. Holloway finds that ways of dying are just as much a part of black identity as ways of living. Gracefully interweaving interviews, archival research, and analyses of literature, film, and music, Holloway shows how the vulnerability of African Americans to untimely death is inextricably linked to how black culture represents itself and is represented. With a focus on the death care industry - black funeral homes and funeral directors, the history of the profession and its practices - Holloway examines all facets of the burial business, from physicians, hospital chaplains, and hospice administrators, to embalming chemical salesmen, coffin makers, and funeral directors, to grieving relatives. She also uses narrative, photographs, and images to cover lynchings, white rage and riot, medical malpractice and neglect, executions, and neighbourhood violence. Describing the specialised coffins sold to African America, formal burial photos of infants, and death-bed stories, the...

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