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## Birth of a Notion; or, the Half Ain t Never Been Told: A Narrative Account with Entertaining Passages of the State of Minstrelsy and of America and the True Relation Thereof (from the

By Bill Harris

Wayne State University Press, United States, 2010. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. This title offers a critical look at black identity in American history and popular culture as told from a performative African American perspective. In Birth of a Notion , poet and playwright Bill Harris confronts contemporary stereotypes and prejudices by looking back to their roots in early American history. In a hybrid work of prose and poetry that takes its cues from nineteenth-century minstrelsy, Harris speaks back to preconceived notions about blackness through many different characters and voices. His narrative is at turns sarcastic, serious, wry, and lyrical, as he investigates the source of pervasive racist images and their incorporation into American culture. Harris takes readers on a tour of nineteenth-century American history, from the 1830s and the rise of the abolitionist movement, to Reconstruction and the Industrial Revolution in the 1860s, and to the beginning of the twentieth century. He considers cultural productions that gave rise to America s idea of the new Negro , including the development of minstrelsy as popular entertainment, the publication of Uncle Tom s Cabin , the museum curios of P.T. Barnum, and the exhibitions of exotic people...



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### Reviews

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