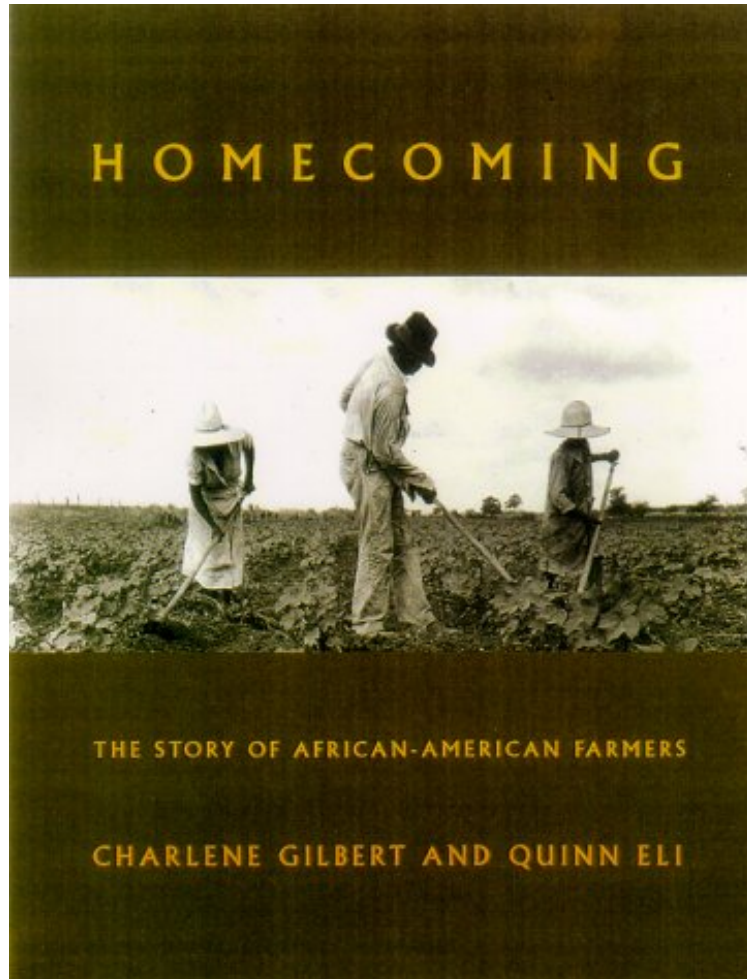


(Download free pdf) Homecoming: The Story of African-American Farmers

Homecoming: The Story of African-American Farmers

Charlene Gilbert, Quinn Eli

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#2498886 in Books Beacon Press 2000-10-30Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .0 x .0 x .0l, #File Name: 0807009628240 pages | File size: 47.Mb

Charlene Gilbert, Quinn Eli : Homecoming: The Story of African-American Farmers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Homecoming: The Story of African-American Farmers:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. InspiringBy AnnDBefore I read this book, I was planning to sell the farm land I will one day inherit because I felt no connection to the land, town, or that lifestyle. Now, out of respect for what my ancestors went through to hold onto their land, I will never sell that land. I will do everything I can to hold it and pass it down through the family line. The story of these hardworking people is inspiring.

A photographic essay which offers a striking and moving tribute to African-American farmers. This is the companion book to Gilbert's PBS documentary, HOMECOMING.Homecoming traces the history of black farmers from Reconstruction to the present, as they struggle to survive today. Homecoming pays tribute not only to the devastating

losses they have suffered throughout the century, but also to the legacy of hope that endures in the story of African-Americans working the land. "Revisiting the unbearable hardships encountered by my great-grandparents, grandparents, and parents as they sought to survive the inhuman sharecropping system of the post-Civil War South—a system in many ways more brutal than slavery—my heart breaks again. But reading Homecoming's account of our ancestors' determined humility, obdurate courage, and fierce pride in and love of the land, my heart is healed. I see why there is such a thing as ancestor worship. I could not love my sharecropping ancestors more if I had created them myself. That black Southerners still love nature and revere the earth is the legacy of a people whose innate elegance and dignity was always expressed in essentials." —Alice Walker "An extraordinary gift. . . . A moving, lyrical, and important history: a tale of land, labor, love, and loss." —Farah Jasmine Griffin "Moving, highly informative, and valuable." —Barbara Neely, author of *Blanche Cleans Up*

From Booklist
Gilbert, an independent filmmaker, began a personal documentary film of her family's farming roots and ended by documenting the historical importance of land and farming for African Americans. Through photographs, historic accounts, and current-day recollections, Gilbert and Eli trace the history of the connection between former slaves and their desire for land ownership to the unfulfilled promise of 40 acres and a mule during Reconstruction. By 1890, the corrupt system of sharecropping was so pervasive that 90 percent of black farmers were sharecroppers. Farming figured as a major element in the historic debate between Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. DuBois about whether black people should stay and farm the land or challenge discrimination and move into new arenas. Eli and Gilbert connect the continuing struggle for black farmers to acquire and hold onto farmland to the recent Supreme Court decision granting them restitution from discriminatory banking practices. This book, a companion to the PBS documentary of the same name, is an important tribute to the significance of land to a people who had worked it as slaves. Vanessa Bush
Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved
Homecoming tells a distressing story but delivers an uplifting message. --Jim Hightower
"Revisiting the unbearable hardships encountered by my great-grandparents, grandparents, and parents as they sought to survive the inhuman sharecropping system of the post-Civil War South—a system in many ways more brutal than slavery—my heart breaks again. But reading Homecoming's account of our ancestors' determined humility, obdurate courage, and fierce pride in and love of the land, my heart is healed. I see why there is such a thing as ancestor worship. I could not love my sharecropping ancestors more if I had created them myself. That black Southerners still love nature and revere the earth is the legacy of a people whose innate elegance and dignity was always expressed in essentials." --Alice Walker
About the Author
Charlene Gilbert, an independent filmmaker and descendent of Georgia farmers, is a professor of film at the State University of New York. Her works have been screened in national and international film and video festivals such as the Women in the Director's Chair Festival, the National Black Arts Festival, the Philadelphia Festival of World Cinema, the New England Film and Video Festival, and the New York International Video Festival. She is the recipient of several professional and academic awards including an NEA Artist Fellowship. Her films have been broadcast on public television and screened in a wide variety of venues. In addition to filmmaking, she has taught at Princeton, Temple, Cedar Crest College, and the Scribe Video Center in Philadelphia.
Quinn Eli is a recipient of the 1999 Fellowship in Literature from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. His books include *AFRICAN-AMERICAN WISDOM* and *MANY STRONG AND BEAUTIFUL VOICES*, which was selected as an Outstanding Book of 1998 by the New York Public Library. His work is featured in *TESTIMONY*, an anthology of African-American poetry and prose, and *SPEAK MY NAME*, both available from Beacon Press. He has taught at Temple University, Bryn Mawr College, and the Community College of Philadelphia.