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| Nota di contenuto | Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- A Note on Language -- Prologue Family, Memory, History -- Chapter One: Collect Street: Circa 1819 -- Chapter Two: The Mulberry Street School: Circa 1828 -- Chapter Three: The Young Graduates: Circa 1834 -- Chapter Four: Community Building: Circa 1840 -- Chapter Five: A Black Aristocracy: Circa 1847 -- Chapter Six: Whimsy and Resistance: Circa 1853 -- Chapter Seven: The Draft Riots: July 1863 -- Chapter Eight: Union and Disunion: Circa 1864 -- Chapter Nine: Peter Guignon's Private Wars: Circa 1862 -- Chapter Ten: Philip White in Brooklyn: Circa 1875 -- Chapter Eleven: New Women, New Men at Century's End -- Epilogue Commemorations -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index |
| Sommario/riassunto | Part detective tale, part social and cultural narrative, Black Gotham is Carla Peterson's riveting account of her quest to reconstruct the lives of |

her nineteenth-century ancestors. As she shares their stories and those of their friends, neighbors, and business associates, she illuminates the greater history of African-American elites in New York City. *Black Gotham* challenges many of the accepted "truths" about African-American history, including the assumption that the phrase "nineteenth-century black Americans" means enslaved people, that "New York state before the Civil War" refers to a place of freedom, and that a black elite did not exist until the twentieth century. Beginning her story in the 1820s, Peterson focuses on the pupils of the Mulberry Street School, the graduates of which went on to become eminent African-American leaders. She traces their political activities as well as their many achievements in trade, business, and the professions against the backdrop of the expansion of scientific racism, the trauma of the Civil War draft riots, and the rise of Jim Crow. Told in a vivid, fast-paced style, *Black Gotham* is an important account of the rarely acknowledged achievements of nineteenth-century African Americans and brings to the forefront a vital yet forgotten part of American history and culture.
