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Front matter -- Contents -- Introduction -- One From Laventille to Camp Wo-Chi-Ca -- Two A Life in Dance -- Three African Transformations -- Four Teaching, Traveling, and the FBI -- Five Trinidad Communities -- Six Return to Africa -- Seven The PhD -- Eight The Turn to Teaching and Return to the Stage -- NINE Academic Trials and Triumphs -- Ten Transmitting the Work -- Eleven Barbados: Return to the Sea -- Acknowledgments -- Appendix I: Pearl Primus Timeline -- Appendix II: Interviews -- A Note on Sources and Documentation -- Notes -- Works Cited -- Index

Sommario/riassunto

"Pearl Primus (1919-1994) blazed onto the dance scene in 1943 with stunning works that incorporated social and racial protest into their dance aesthetic. In *The Dance Claimed Me*, Peggy and Murray Schwartz, friends and colleagues of Primus, offer an intimate perspective on her life and explore her influences on American culture, dance, and education. They trace Primus's path from her childhood in Port of Spain, Trinidad, through her rise as an influential international dancer, an early member of the New Dance Group (whose motto was "Dance is a weapon"), and a pioneer in dance anthropology. Primus traveled extensively in the United States, Europe, Israel, the Caribbean, and Africa, and she played an important role in presenting authentic African dance to American audiences. She engendered controversy in both her private and professional lives, marrying a white Jewish man during a time of segregation and challenging black intellectuals who opposed the "primitive" in her choreography. Her political protests and mixed-race tours in the South triggered an FBI investigation, even as she was celebrated by dance critics and by contemporaries like Langston Hughes. For *The Dance Claimed Me*, the Schwartzes interviewed more than a hundred of Primus's family members, friends, and fellow artists, as well as other individuals to create a vivid portrayal of a life filled with passion, drama, determination, fearlessness, and brilliance"--