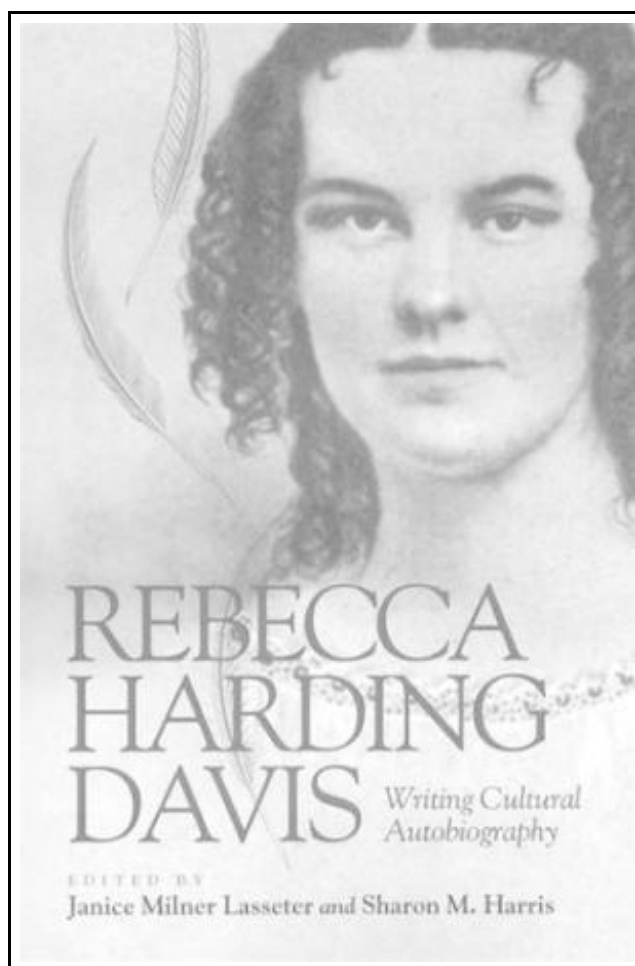


Rebecca Harding Davis: Writing Cultural Autobiography (annotated edition)



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Reviews

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REBECCA HARDING DAVIS: WRITING CULTURAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY (ANNOTATED EDITION)



Vanderbilt University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Rebecca Harding Davis: Writing Cultural Autobiography (annotated edition), Janice Milner Lasseter, Sharon M. Harris, Nineteenth-century fiction writer and journalist Rebecca Harding Davis (1831-1910) is best known for her novella *Life in the Iron Mills*. Its publication in 1861 launched her stunning fifty-year career that yielded a corpus of some 500 published works, including short stories, novels, novellas, sketches, and social commentary. Davis's unique mode of writing anticipated literary realism twenty years before the time usually associated with its genesis. Today, her life and work continue to figure prominently in the study of American literature and culture. *Rebecca Harding Davis: Writing Cultural Autobiography* is the annotated edition of her 1904 autobiography, *Bits of Gossip*, and a previously unpublished family history written for her children. The memoirs are not traditional autobiography; rather, they are Davis's perspective on the extraordinary cultural changes that occurred during her lifetime and of the remarkable - and sometimes scandalous - people who shaped the events. She provides intimate portraits of the famous people she knew, including Emerson, Hawthorne, Louisa May Alcott, Ann Stephens, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and Horace Greeley. Equally important are Davis's commentaries on the political activists of the Civil War era, from Abraham Lincoln to Booker T. Washington, from the "daughters of the Southland" to Lucretia Mott, from Henry Ward Beecher to William Still. Whereas *Bits of Gossip* expands our understanding of Davis as cultural critic and observer of life, the family history offers new information on Davis's early life and the influences that led her to become one of the nineteenth century's pioneering Realists and cultural commentators. Together they bring a human voice to the nineteenth-century American milieu.

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