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<p>"First published in June 1939, this autobiography became an instant bestseller and catapulted its author, B. L. Coombes, into the front rank of proletarian writers. Coombes, an English-born migrant, had lived in the Vale of Neath since before World War I, but only turned to writing in the 1930s as a way of communicating the plight of the miners and their communities to the wider world. The result is a work that has been recognized for more than 60 years as a classic miner's autobiography. In this new edition, a scholarly introduction and textual notes accompany the original story."</p>

These Poor Hands: The Autobiography of a Miner Working in South Wales', was first published in June 1939. It was an instant bestseller, and its fame catapulted its author into the front rank of 'proletarian writers'. B. L. Coombes, an English-born migrant, had lived in the Vale of Neath since before the First World War, but only turned to writing in the 1930s as a way of communicating the plight of the miners and their communities to the wider world. "These Poor Hands" presents, in a documentary style, the working life of the miner as well as the author's experiences in the lock-outs of 1921 and 1926. It demonstrates Coombes' desire to offer an accurate account of the lives of miners and their families, and carries a sincere moral charge in its description of the waste of human potential that is industrial capitalism in decline. Long out of print, "These Poor Hands" has been recognised for over sixty years as the classic miner's autobiography.

Coombes' title These Poor Hands first published in 1939, was an instant best-seller, catapulting the author to the forefront of proletarian writers. Coombes was born in England, but he lived for a large part of his in the Vale of Neath, South Wales, and as the economic problems of the 30s worsened, he turned to writing as a way to spread the news of the plight of miners and their communities to the wider world. He presented the daily life of miners in documentary fashion, with special attention to the damaging lockouts of 1921 and 1926, These Poor Hands retains the power to astonish readers with its description of the ways that unfettered capitalism can lay waste to pure human potential.

<p>This is the first comprehensive study of one of the most distinctive voices of the south Wales coalfield. Considered by Raymond Williams to be 'the most effective writing about mining life in South Wales', the work of B. L. Coombes portrays coal-mining and coalfield society in south Wales in the first half of the twentieth century. Born in England in 1893, Coombes began to work in the mines before the First World War, coming to prominence as a miner-writer in the late 1930s. His autobiography, These Poor Hands, was published in 1939 and was followed by two further books, Those Clouded Hills and Miners Day, as well as by hundreds of shorter pieces of fiction and non-fiction Drawing on new archival sources as well as on Coombes's published work, this volume examines the man, his writings and the society of which he was a part.</p>

These Poor Hands The Autobiography Of A Miner Working In South Wales Autobiography Of A Miner In South Wales

The unforgettable memoir of a woman at the front lines of the civil rights movement—a harrowing account of black life in the rural South and a powerful affirmation of one person ’ s ability to affect change. “ Anne Moody ’ s autobiography is an eloquent, moving testimonial to her courage. ” —Chicago Tribune Born to a poor couple who were tenant farmers on a plantation in Mississippi, Anne Moody lived through some of the most dangerous days of the pre-civil rights era in the South. The week before she began high school came the news of Emmet Till ’ s lynching. Before then, she had “ known the fear of hunger, hell, and the Devil. But now there was . . . the fear of being killed just because I was black. ” In that moment was born the passion for freedom and justice that would change her life. A straight-A student who realized her dream of going to college when she won a basketball scholarship, she finally dared to join the NAACP in her junior year. Through the NAACP and later through CORE and SNCC, she experienced firsthand the demonstrations and sit-ins that were the mainstay of the civil rights movement—and the arrests and jailings, the shotguns, fire hoses, police dogs, billy clubs, and deadly force that were used to destroy it. A deeply personal story but also a portrait of a turning point in our nation ’ s destiny, this autobiography lets us see history in the making, through the eyes of one of the footsoldiers in the civil rights movement. Praise for Coming of Age in Mississippi “ A history of our time, seen from the bottom up, through the eyes of someone who decided for herself that things had to be changed. . . . a timely reminder that we cannot now relax. ” —Senator Edward Kennedy, The New York Times Book Review “ Something is new here . . . rural southern black life begins to speak. It hits the page like a natural force, crude and undeniable and, against all principles of beauty, beautiful. ” —The Nation “ Engrossing, sensitive, beautiful . . . so candid, so honest, and so touching, as to make it virtually impossible to put down. ” —San Francisco Sun-Reporter

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<p>#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • ONE OF ESSENCE ’ S 50 MOST IMPACTFUL BLACK BOOKS OF THE PAST 50 YEARS In this iconic memoir of his early days, Barack Obama “ guides us straight to the intersection of the most serious questions of identity, class, and race ” (The Washington Post Book World). “ Quite extraordinary. ” —Toni Morrison In this lyrical, unsentimental, and compelling memoir, the son of a black African father and a white American mother searches for a workable meaning to his life as a black American. It begins in New York, where Barack Obama learns that his father—a figure he knows more as a myth than as a man—has been killed in a car accident. This sudden death inspires an emotional odyssey—first to a small town in Kansas, from which he retraces the migration of his mother ’ s family to Hawaii, and then to Kenya, where he meets the African side of his family, confronts the bitter truth of his father ’ s life, and at last reconciles his divided inheritance. Praise for Dreams from My Father “ Beautifully crafted . . . moving and candid . . . This book belongs on the shelf beside works like James McBride ’ s The Color of Water and Gregory Howard Williams ’ s Life on the Color Line as a tale of living astride America ’ s racial</p>
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categories. " —Scott Turow " Provocative . . . Persuasively describes the phenomenon of belonging to two different worlds, and thus belonging to neither. " —The New York Times Book Review " Obama ' s writing is incisive yet forgiving. This is a book worth savoring. " —Alex Kotlowitz, author of There Are No Children Here " One of the most powerful books of self-discovery I ' ve ever read, all the more so for its illuminating insights into the problems not only of race, class, and color, but of culture and ethnicity. It is also beautifully written, skillfully layered, and paced like a good novel. " —Charlayne Hunter-Gault, author of In My Place " Dreams from My Father is an exquisite, sensitive study of this wonderful young author ' s journey into adulthood, his search for community and his place in it, his quest for an understanding of his roots, and his discovery of the poetry of human life. Perceptive and wise, this book will tell you something about yourself whether you are black or white. " —Marian Wright Edelman

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