

CONTENTS

PREFACE

- Origins** by Nikole Hannah-Jones xvii
-

- 1619 *The White Lion*
POEM BY CLAUDIA RANKINE 3

CHAPTER 1

- Democracy** by Nikole Hannah-Jones 7

- 1662 *Daughters of Azimuth*
POEM BY NIKKY FINNEY 39

- 1682 *Loving Me*
POEM BY VIEVEE FRANCIS 43

CHAPTER 2

- Race** by Dorothy Roberts 45

- 1731 *Conjured*
POEM BY HONORÉE FANONNE JEFFERS 63

- 1740 *A Ghazalled Sentence After “My People . . . Hold On”*
by Eddie Kendricks and the Negro Act of 1740
POEM BY TERRANCE HAYES 67

CHAPTER 3

- Sugar** by Khalil Gibran Muhammad 71

- 1770 *First to Rise*
POEM BY YUSEF KOMUNYAKAA 89

- 1773 *proof [dear Phillis]*
POEM BY EVE L. EWING 93

CHAPTER 4

Fear by Leslie Alexander and Michelle Alexander 97

1775 *Freedom Is Not for Myself Alone*
FICTION BY ROBERT JONES, JR. 125

1791 *Other Persons*
POEM BY REGINALD DWAYNE BETTS 129

CHAPTER 5

Dispossession by Tiya Miles 135

1800 *Trouble the Water*
FICTION BY BARRY JENKINS 157

1808 *Sold South*
FICTION BY JESMYN WARD 161

CHAPTER 6

Capitalism by Matthew Desmond 165

1816 *Fort Mose*
POEM BY TYEHIMBA JESS 187

1822 *Before His Execution*
POEM BY TIM SEIBLES 191

CHAPTER 7

Politics by Jamelle Bouie 195

1830 *We as People*
POEM BY CORNELIUS EADY 211

1850 *A Letter to Harriet Hayden*
MONOLOGUE BY LYNN NOTTAGE 215

CHAPTER 8

Citizenship by Martha S. Jones 219

1863 *The Camp*
FICTION BY DARRYL PINCKNEY 239

1866 *An Absolute Massacre*
FICTION BY ZZ PACKER 245

CHAPTER 9

Self-Defense by Carol Anderson 249

1870 *Like to the Rushing of a Mighty Wind*
POEM BY TRACY K. SMITH 269

1883 *no car for colored [+] ladies (or, miss wells goes off [on] the rails)*
POEM BY EVIE SHOCKLEY 273

CHAPTER 10

Punishment by Bryan Stevenson 275

1898 *Race Riot*
POEM BY FORREST HAMER 285

1921 *Greenwood*
POEM BY JASMINE MANS 289

CHAPTER 11

Inheritance by Trymaine Lee 293

1925 *The New Negro*
POEM BY A. VAN JORDAN 307

1932 *Bad Blood*
FICTION BY YAA GYASI 311

CHAPTER 16

Traffic by Kevin M. Kruse 405

1984 *Rainbows Aren't Real, Are They?*
FICTION BY KIESE LAYMON 413

1985 *A Surname to Honor Their Mother*
POEM BY GREGORY PARDLO 417

CHAPTER 17

Progress by Ibram X. Kendi 421

2005 *At the Superdome After the Storm Has Passed*
POEM BY CLINT SMITH 443

2008 *Mother and Son*
FICTION BY JASON REYNOLDS 447

CHAPTER 18

Justice by Nikole Hannah-Jones 451

2020 *Progress Report*
POEM BY SONIA SANCHEZ 479

Acknowledgments 483

Notes 495

Contributors 551

Credits 559

Index 561