

"Human experience is written in
between the lines of every sentence
of every textbook."

—STUDENT

"Sarah Trembath's voice is an authentic, deeply passionate one, calling us to task for the ways in which we have distorted or ignored the painful parts of our national history."

—ADAM HOCHSCHILD, *New York Times* bestselling author
of *King Leopold's Ghost*, *To End All Wars*, and *Bury the Chains*

This Past Was Waiting For Me

Sarah Trembath
Forthcoming: May 30, 2026

In this groundbreaking, genre-bending book, American University professor Sarah Trembath braids poetry, art, personal essay, and scholarly analysis to salvage Black history from its misconstructions and misrememberings. *This Past Was Waiting for Me* distills Trembath's decades-long body of academic and artistic work into a cohesive artistic experience that drives empathy and combats misinformation.

Trembath corrects the historical record while adding to it—she reflects on both the horrors and the richness, holding back on neither. Her account of history covers a swathe of eras and events from the Middle Passage to the present, including contemporary coloniality, the genocidal wars abroad, and an ongoing, interwoven account of the gentrification of her old neighborhood of Shaw in Washington, DC. She draws upon the roles of students, teachers, artists, and activists as the sources of hope for a transformed Western world.

The book shows, importantly, how Black history is inextricable from current events. As Trembath writes, her book "leans forward and dips back, chronicles in irregularity and circularity what contextualizes Today. I hope that it also points forward to what you (we) are actively unfolding in indignation and celebration, energized and undaunted all the way."

"Sarah Trembath has written a bold, brave book about America, history, and race. If ever there was a moment when we as a nation needed this book, that time is now."

—MARITA GOLDEN, bestselling author of *The Wide Circumference of Love*

Sarah Trembath teaches writing, storytelling, and literature at American University, where she has been a faculty member since 2014 and is currently the executive director for AU's Antiracist Research and Policy Center. Dr. Trembath is a poet and decolonial scholar who writes extensively on matters of social justice, and is a recipient of the American Studies Association's Gloria Anzaldúa Award.

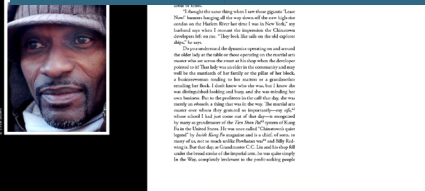
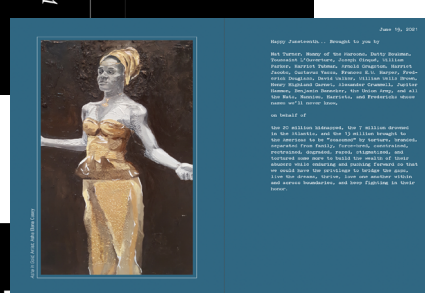
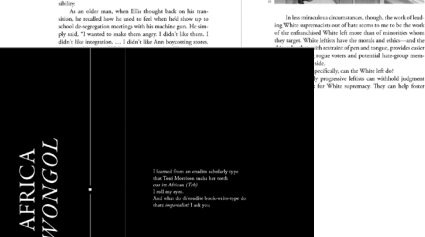
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A CHRONICLE AT QUARTER CENTURY

SARAH TREMBATH



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