Companion Books

*Overground Railroad: The Green Book and the Roots of Black Travel in America*

*By Candacy Taylor*

"*Overground Railroad* is an extraordinary reckoning with the America that whites have always believed existed, and at the America that blacks actually experienced, navigated, and made theirs despite every barrier . . . a true gift from author Candacy Taylor." —Heather Ann Thompson, Pulitzer Prize–winning author of *Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy.*

Published from 1936 to 1967, the *Green Book* was hailed as the “bible of black travel.” At that time, it was very dangerous and difficult for African Americans to travel because they couldn’t eat, sleep, or buy gas at most white-owned businesses. The *Green Book* listed hotels, restaurants, gas stations, and other establishments that were safe for black travelers. It was a resourceful and innovative solution to a horrific problem.

It took courage to be listed in the *Green Book,* and *Overground Railroad: The Green Book and the Roots of Black Travel in America* (Abrams Press; January 7, 2020; U.S. $35.00; Hardcover) by award-winning author *Candacy Taylor* celebrates the stories of those who put their names in it and stood up against segregation. Taylor’s book covers Victor Green’s founding of the guide and discusses how its content and history represents America itself, how the sites and businesses it featured have changed over the years, and how the untold story of black travel reflects African Americans’ struggle and triumph against incredible odds. *Overground Railroad* offers readers a rich opportunity to reexamine America’s history of segregation, how we arrived at our present historical moment, and how far we still have to go when it comes to race relations in America.
About the Author

Candacy Taylor is an award-winning author, photographer, and cultural documentarian. Her work has been featured in more than 50 media outlets including the New Yorker and the Atlantic. She is the recipient of numerous fellowships and grants including those from the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research at Harvard University and the National Endowment for the Humanities. She lives in Harlem, New York.

About the Book

Overground Railroad: The Green Book and the Roots of Black Travel in America
By Candacy Taylor
Abrams Press / January 7, 2020
U.S. $35.00 / CAN $44.00
Hardcover with jacket / 360 pages
6½ x 9½" / 150 color and black-and-white illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-4197-3817-3

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Ruth was so excited to take a trip in her family’s new car! In the early 1950s, few African Americans could afford to buy cars, so this would be an adventure. But she soon found out that black travelers weren’t treated very well in some towns. Many hotels and gas stations refused service to black people. Daddy was upset about something called Jim Crow laws . . .

Finally, a friendly attendant at a gas station showed Ruth’s family *The Green Book*. It listed all of the places that would welcome black travelers. With this guidebook—and the kindness of strangers—Ruth could finally make a safe journey from Chicago to her grandma’s house in Alabama.

Ruth’s story is fiction, but *The Green Book* and its role in helping a generation of African American travelers avoid some of the indignities of Jim Crow are historical fact.

**About the Book**

*Ruth and the Green Book*

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